

N O T I C E

Effective 1 April, the Iran and South Asia sections of the FBIS Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be incorporated into a new South Asia DAILY REPORT. The Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be renamed Middle East & Africa and will include material on Sub-Saharan Africa effective the same date.

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KUWAIT

MINISTER DENIES REPORT ON ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS

LD230848 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0713 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 23 March--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister, denied in a press statement today an Egyptian press report that Tunisia has informed Kuwait that it no longer wishes to continue to host the Arab League headquarters, which were transferred to Tunis from Cairo as part of the Arab sanctions against Egypt because of its peace treaty with Israel.

In his statement made to the newspaper AL-QABAS, Husayn was thus commenting on a report published by Cairo's AKHBAR AL-YAWM and broadcast by Radio Israel to the effect that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have both refused to play host to Arab League headquarters on a temporary basis after Tunisia had expressed its desire that they do so. The minister said "that all this was nonsense and completely untrue. It is no more than an act of calumny used by suspect media in Egypt and Israel with the hope of creating troubles among Arab brothers." He added that "Tunisia has been abiding by all the resolutions adopted by the Arab League conference, particularly with regard to keeping the league in its territory."

OMAN

PFLO SAYS 10,000 U.S. TROOPS IN SULTANATE

JN221801 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO] disclosed today that 10,000 U.S. officers, soldiers and engineers are now being stationed in the regions of Al-Khasab, Bakha, Dayah and Bay'ah in the Sultanate of Oman. This was announced here today by a PFLO spokesman, who said that the Sultanate of Oman has become a U.S. war arsenal, from which the rapid intervention forces, which were especially created to occupy the Arab Gulf region, can set out.

The spokesman affirmed that work is currently in progress to establish two main bases in Umm al-Ghanam and (Mustadim), in addition to other U.S. war installations in mountainous areas overlooking the Arab Gulf. He added that there are about 20 to 25 naval vessels, consisting of aircraft carriers, minesweepers, transport ships and barges, stationed near the Omani coasts.

The PFLO spokesman said that efforts are now being exerted to expand old installations and to erect U.S. military installations at the military base on the island of Masirah, so that this island will eventually become a huge base, like that of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. He added that a number of the U.S. fleet vessels and a large number of transport planes and U.S. B-52 fighter-bombers are now stationed on the island, to which the headquarters of the U.S. forces' command in Oman and the Gulf region has been transferred.

The spokesman affirmed that huge U.S. transport planes carried equipment and soldiers to the base of Salalah in Dhofar from Masirah base last month. He pointed out that about 2,000 U.S. and Egyptian soldiers took part in military operations in hilly areas near the city of Mirbat at the outset of last month. These operations were carried out against the front's strugglers, as part of experiments to test the movement of U.S. and Egyptian forces in the region's terrain.

The spokesman concluded his statement by calling on the Arab and world public, as well as the forces that love freedom, justice and peace, to launch a world campaign of solidarity with the Omani people's struggle and armed revolution. He said that the Omani rulers have proved their absolute readiness to implement the role given them in the Camp David alliance, which is directed against the Arab nation.

On another level, the PFLO issued military communiques today on operations it carried out in a number of regions. It said that three battalions, special forces, police forces and a brigade called the Dhofar brigade [words indistinct] tribes, whose total number amounted to 6,400 soldiers and officers, in addition to 2,000 U.S. and Egyptian military men took part in a military campaign at the beginning of last month. It added that the U.S. forces landed from both sea and air in the plain of Mirbat, 60 kms east of the city of Salalah.

The front affirmed that a network of mines went off in another operation, killing two soldiers and wounding a lieutenant colonel.

The front also published a statement for two Omani citizens named Salim 'Awad and Salim Sa'd Zaghbut, who escaped from a prison headed by the commander of the British intelligence in Salalah, named Brown. In their statement, the two Omani citizens explained the torture to which they were subjected in their prison.

PDRY

SOVIET OFFICIAL HOLDS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER

LD221706 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Summary] Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today held talks with Vladimir Fedorovich Mordvinov, visiting deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. "The talks, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, centered on economic relations between the two countries and the progress of the implementation of several projects in the PDRY financed by the USSR."

Departs 23 Mar

LD231542 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Comrade Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and his delegation left Aden this afternoon after concluding an official visit to Democratic Yemen lasting several days. The Soviet economic delegation was seen off by brother Dr Jaraj ibn Ghanim, minister of planning, the deputy minister of planning, a number of brother officials of the Ministries of Planning, Fisheries, Industry, and Agriculture and the economic attache of the Soviet Embassy in Aden.

Before leaving, Comrade Mordvinov told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY about the results of his visit and his discussions and meetings with officials of Democratic Yemen. He said the joint Yemeni-Soviet economic committee had covered a great deal of ground during its seventh meeting on cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the USSR in the economic and technical fields, resulting in the signing of a number of contracts in the spheres of industry, agriculture, fisheries and the training of cadres in various fields.

Comrade Mordvinov stressed that success of the talks constituted a great achievement for the two friendly peoples and countries which were linked by a close friendship. The latter had been consolidated by the friendship and technical cooperation agreement signed recently by the two countries by brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, secretary general of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Comrade Mordvinov concluded his statement by expressing his and his delegation's deep gratitude for the hospitality and generosity accorded them during their visit to Democratic Yemen. He wished our people further successes in developing our national economy.

QATAR

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF MEETS AMIR 22 MAR

JN220922 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 22 March--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, this morning received Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, who is currently on a visit to Qatar. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the current Arab situation and the latest developments in the Arab and world situation with regard to the Palestinian issue.

Khalaf arrived in the Qatari capital the day before yesterday on a visit of several days for talks with Qatari officials aimed at consolidating the relations between Fatah and the State of Qatar.

Leaves for Abu Dhabi

JN231303 Doha QNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 23 March--Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, left Doha for Abu Dhabi today after a 4-day visit to Qatar. In a statement prior to his departure, Salah Khalaf expressed pleasure over visiting Qatar and meeting with the amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, and the heir apparent, His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani. Khalaf thanked the Qatari people and the amir for their support for the Palestine question.

Salah Khalaf said that he briefed his highness the amir on the latest developments in Lebanon and on the Palestinian position regarding these developments.

In a statement to QNA, Salah Khalaf spoke about the latest developments in the Palestine question. He said that the new European move is a clear and important point on the way to achieving an independent Palestinian state.

Referring to U.S. pressure on the European countries, Khalaf said that despite this pressure, the new European move is an indication of European awareness of the fact that the Palestine question is the core of the Middle East issue. Abu Iyad called on the United States and Europe to recognize the fact that their interests in the Arab region are in the hands of the Arabs, not Israel.

In his statement, Khalaf said that the PLO is forging ahead with its plans to achieve its objectives through establishing its state. He said that nobody can stop the PLO's struggle or affect its external moves.

Commenting on the Steadfastness Front's conference to be held in Damascus within a few days, Khalaf said: We hope that this conference will be held in a suitable environment and will be part of a broad circle of Arab solidarity.

SAUDI ARABIA

AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD221956 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1925 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 22 March--Otto Roesch, the Austrian federal minister of national defense, arrived in Riyadh this evening on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the minister of defense and aviation. During the visit, the Austrian minister will hold talks with Prince Sultan and other Defense Ministry officials on military cooperation between the kingdom and Austria. The Austrian minister was welcomed at the airport by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Shaykh 'Uthman al-Hamid, the deputy minister of defense and aviation; Lt Gen Salih al-Hammad, the chief of the general staff; and a number of senior Defense Ministry officials.

Weapons Deal Reported

LD231458 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 23 March--Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today met with Austrian Defense Minister Otto Roesch. The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the Austrian minister and the Austrian ambassador to Saudi Arabia as well as Assistant Minister of Defense and Aviation Shaykh 'Uthman al-Hamid, and chief of the general staff Lt Gen Muhammad al-Hammad and a number of armed forces commanders.

Following the meeting, the Prince Sultan said that the talks were constructive and covered military cooperation between the two countries. He added that the two sides agreed on a deal under which the kingdom will receive a number of hunting rifles and 5mm and 15mm machineguns. The value of the deal will not total less than 200 million rials.

Prince Sultan also said that next month Saudi Arabia would receive samples of Austrian tanks and antiaircraft guns for testing in the kingdom. Should these prove acceptable, discussions would be held on either buying them completed or producing them jointly.

ZAIRE'S MOBUTU PAYS VISIT TO KINGDOM

Arrival Reported

LD201624 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 20 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] Jiddah--Mobutu Sese Seko, president of Zaire, arrived in Jiddah at 1330 GMT today.

Leaves for Home

LD221252 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Sese Seko Mobutu, the president of Zaire today left Jiddah for his country after a 2-day visit to the kingdom. He was seen off by Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol Salim Sunbul, a representative of royal protocol and other officials.

KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY PAYS VISIT

Arrival Reported

LD221014 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0853 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Rashid ar-Rashid this morning arrived in Riyadh on a short visit to the kingdom. He was welcomed by the Foreign Ministry director and officials.

Meets King Khalid

LD221256 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] King Khalid this afternoon received Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid, who delivered to him a message from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The meeting was attended by Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who earlier examined with Ar-Rashid questions of interest to the two sister countries.

Returns Home

LD221413 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Rashid ar-Rashid, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary, this afternoon left Riyadh after a brief visit to the kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by a number of senior officials. He told SNA that the message which he delivered to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during his audience with him dealt with bilateral relations between the two sister countries and issues of mutual interest. He said that during this meeting we listened to the valuable directive and wise advice of his majesty. The Kuwaiti minister expressed his hope that the existing cooperation and coordination between the two sister countries will continue.

FINANCE MINITER: INVESTMENT IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES 'MORE SECURE'

LD230724 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 23 March--Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl has stated that investment in the Arab, Islamic and friendly African countries is more secure than investment in the European and American countries.

In an interview with newspaper AR-RIYAD, the minister discounted the likelihood of the United States freezing the Gulf countries' assets as it did with Iranian funds and said that there is no reason for concern in this respect.

Asked about the Gulf countries' position vis-a-vis the information campaigns being waged against them by those same Western countries in which they invest their funds and whether the Gulf countries are planning to take any financial measures to counter these campaigns, Shaykh Aba al-Khayl said that the Arab capital is free and we cannot ban investment in Western countries.

Investment in the Arab and Islamic countries, he added, is more secure than investment elsewhere and we encourage the investment of Arab capital in these countries. He said the growth of Arab economic potentials increases our hopes that the volume of Arab capital investments internally will top the volume of Arab investments abroad. He intimated that the private sector is investing some of its funds in industrial projects in Africa.

YAR

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS HUGE OIL FIND IN REPUBLIC

LD230920 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0724 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 23 March--Kuwaiti AS-SIYASAH today carries on its front page a report about what it describes as an "enormous" oil find in the Republic of North Yemen.

In its dispatch, which it attributes to reliable oil sources in Paris, the paper says that the French petroleum company has discovered an "exceptional" oil reserve in North Yemen which it described as probably the fifth largest oil field in the world.

AS-SIYASAH adds that French oil and political quarters, however, have "kept silent" about news of this find, which is estimated at 5 billion barrels and was discovered about 1 year ago in the Sa'dah region. This silence, it adds, might prompt various quarters to deny it "because of its extraordinary implication."

It is recalled that North Yemen produces no oil and imports all its oil needs from neighboring countries and the Gulf.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES VISITING PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER

JN222045 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani received brother Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, defense minister in the southern part of the homeland, in his office this morning. The meeting was attended by Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i, the president's adviser for unity affairs.

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E G Y P T

D 1

FORMER SHAH ARRIVES IN CAIRO, GOES TO HOSPITAL

BBC Report

TA240647 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[From "Correspondents' reports"]

[Text] In Egypt, it's just been confirmed that the Shah will be given sanctuary there. Foreign correspondents were first summoned to President as-Sadat's residence and then told to go to a military hospital in a southern suburb of Cairo. Our correspondent Paul Martin has been watching developments throughout the night.

[Begin Martin recording] A presidential spokesman told reporters who had been summoned to the president's house in Giza that the exiled shah would be arriving within a few hours. He is to be met at an undisclosed airport in Cairo by President as-Sadat himself. No reporters and television crews will be allowed to see the arrival, and a spokesman said the shah would then be whisked off to the Ma'adi Military Hospital where early this morning increased security was visible. It's a modern hospital overlooking the Nile south of Cairo that is one of Egypt's two cancer treatment facilities. The shah, who is reportedly in urgent need of treatment for his spleen, and is suffering from cancer, is likely to undergo an operation there. Egyptians boast that, despite over-crowded and inadequate general hospitals, Egypt also possesses facilities for the most advanced medical care. Contrary to the problems that the shah experienced in Panama, Egypt is unlikely to object to the operation being carried out by American doctors. A high-ranking government source has explained what President as-Sadat's motivations are in helping the exiled shah. It is for reasons of Islamic compassion, he said, for an ailing man who has been hounded across the world. President as-Sadat has used similar phraseology in explaining his previous invitation to the shah to find a safe haven in Egypt. He has also bitterly denounced Ayatollah Khomeini as a lunatic and a disgrace to Islam, and the two countries no longer have diplomatic or substantial commercial ties.

[end recording]

Enters Hospital

NC241001 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0956 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--The former shah of Iran, Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, arrived in Cairo at 1145 from Panama. President Anwar as-Sadat was at the airport to welcome him.

The former shah of Iran was also met at the airport by Mrs Jihan as-Sadat and Vice President and Mrs Husni Mubarak.

The shah arrived aboard a special Boeing 707 belonging to the Evergreen International Company.

The shah arrived at Al-Ma'adi Hospital at 1240. He was accompanied by President as-Sadat, Shabanu Farah Diba, Mrs Jihan as-Sadat and Husni Mubarak.

The shah and the president were received at the hospital by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi and Hospital Director Maj Gen Dr Sabri Isma'il. They rode in cars to the hospital door. The president and the shah and their wives then took lift number 2 up to the second floor to the wing reserved for the shah.

The shah was wearing a blue suit and looked pale. Everyone else appeared moved. The president and the shah then went to a room in that wing where they rested for 5 minutes, after which President and Mrs as-Sadat left. They were seen off by former Empress Farah Diba, who embraced Mrs Jihan as-Sadat and shook hands with the president.

Reporters who had gathered at the entrance to the hospital addressed questions to President as-Sadat but he declined to answer. They then addressed questions to the shah, who said: We will have a lot of time to talk after the operation.

The shah was asked if he was going to stay permanently in Egypt. President as-Sadat answered: Yes.

Dr Fu'ad Nur, head of the tumor surgery section at Al-Ma'adi Hospital, has stated that the shah was not accompanied by any foreign doctors and that a team of Egyptian doctors will perform the operation on the shah. The team includes Dr Usamah at-Tuni and Dr Muhammad Saqr.

Regarding the date of the operation, the hospital director, Maj Gen Dr Sabri Isma'il, said that the operation will be determined after a study of reports on the shah's treatment and after the necessary medical tests.

Three helicopters had arrived at Al-Ma'adi Hospital, one of them carrying the president and the shah and his wife, the second carrying aides, and the third carrying the guards.

Al-Ma'adi Hospital, where the former shah will be treated, is the most modern hospital in Egypt. The hospital was built in the late 1960's and is equipped with the most up-to-date medical equipment. An elite of senior Egyptian doctors work at the hospital and are attached to the armed forces. The hospital overlooks the Nile in the Al-Ma'adi area south of Cairo. A special wing on the second floor of the six-story hospital has been allocated to the shah.

The hospital has made the necessary preparations to receive the shah. It extended five direct telephone lines to the wing where the shah will reside. A state of alertness has been declared among the doctors who reported to the hospital at 0700 today.

The group that will treat the shah is expected to consist of 15 doctors of various specialties. They will be headed by Doctor Fu'ad Nur, the head of tumor surgery, and Brig Gen Doctor Ahmad Lutfi Mubarak, the head of the ex-ray department.

MENA CONFIRMS AS-SADAT TO VISIT U.S. 8 APRIL

NC221821 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1814 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--President Anwar as-Sadat received a phone call from U.S. President Jimmy Carter during which 8 April was fixed in principle as the date for President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the United States in response to the U.S. President's invitation.

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D 3

EGYPT

GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ISRAELI SETTLEMENT OF HEBRON

Ambassador Murtada Statement

TA231955 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Sa'd Murtada, told our correspondent this evening that the Cabinet's decision on Hebron is a further obstacle in the peace process. Talking to our correspondent Gil Sadan, the ambassador said that the step was particularly grave in view of the UN Security Council resolution denouncing the establishment of settlements. The ambassador pointed out that tomorrow Egyptian Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali will release a declaration denouncing the Cabinet decision.

'Official Spokesman's' Denunciation

NC232020 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Text] An official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry has stated that having learned, with much resentment and denunciation, of the Israeli Government's decision to build two schools in the Arab city of Hebron in the West Bank, the Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its condemnation of this decision, which is considered a new violation of the text and spirit of the two Camp David agreements, the UN Charter and resolutions and the fourth Geneva convention. Furthermore, this decision casts further doubts on the ability and desire of the Israeli Government to confront the new delicate stage of the peace negotiations with the spirit which could lead to a new push in the efforts to achieving a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

GHALI STATEMENT ON ANNIVERSARY OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TREATY

NC230850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that the peace treaty laid down the bases for settling the Palestine question and that Egypt drew up a timetable for achieving these objectives by 26 May. He says that if these objectives are not achieved by the fixed time, Egypt will continue to support the Palestinian people through diplomatic action because the Camp David agreements have laid down the principles for this.

In a statement published in the weekly newspaper AS-SIYASI today on the first anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, Ghali says that Egypt denounces all obstacles that Israel places in the way of the negotiations such as the establishment of settlements, which hinders the peace process.

Dr Butrus Ghali affirms that the United States is playing the role of full partner in these negotiations and expresses the hope that the U.S. role will continue to do so in order to overcome the obstacles in the way of achieving a comprehensive peace in the area and the world.

AL-AHRAM: NEW ROUND OF AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE POSTPONED

NC240756 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that the new round of autonomy negotiations scheduled to begin on Wednesday may be postponed in view of the delayed arrival of the Israeli delegation, because Prime Minister Menahem Begin has asked five members of his Cabinet to remain in Israel until Wednesday to participate in the Knesset vote on the budget because their votes are needed.

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The five ministers, the paper says, are the members of the Israeli delegation to the autonomy talks. They may arrive in Alexandria after 26 March and therefore the negotiations may be held Thursday.

AL-AHRAM adds that Tel Aviv will inform Cairo of the latest changes regarding the arrival of the delegation.

AL-JUMHURIYAH REPORTS ON AS-SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN

NC222316 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2248 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--In its Sunday editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH reminds the Israeli Cabinet, which is due to meet tomorrow to discuss President Anwar as-Sadat's message to Menahem Begin, of certain clear facts which the Israeli Cabinet should keep in mind.

The paper writes that the facts are that: 1. Egypt had already drawn attention to Israel's policies of maneuvering which might have been permissible before Camp David but are impermissible while the peace process is still at the midway point. 2. International public opinion has had enough of Israel's intransigence and provocations inherent in its settlements policies. Meanwhile, international public opinion is witnessing Egypt's adherence to the implementation of the Camp David agreements and its policies of giving peace a chance. 3. In its policies, Israel has lost much of its foothold in the United States. 4. In Israel itself, there are forces of peace which--even though they are still in their infancy--are being encouraged by Egypt's moves in favor of peace.

The paper concludes its editorial saying that these facts must be recognized by the Israeli Cabinet, otherwise it will bear the responsibility of losing a real opportunity for a just and overall peace.

MENA REPORTS AS-SADAT INTERVIEW ON AUTONOMY

NC211050 Cairo MENA in English 1015 GMT 21 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 21 (MENA)--President as-Sadat reasserted that a new situation will arise if any progress was not achieved by the Palestinian autonomy talks before May 26, the deadline.

President as-Sadat went on to stress that if we reached this date, without realising anything, this would be regarded as a very serious violation.

President as-Sadat affirmed that U.S. President Carter did his best and is still doing his best and that the burden falls on Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin if negotiations failed, for this means that Begin has stopped half-way and so he has to face not only his people but also the whole world.

President as-Sadat, in an interview with NBC correspondent James Compton, explained that the Israelis are adopting the policy of Lenin, that is, one step forward and two steps backward as regards the Palestinian autonomy talks.

President as-Sadat added that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East issue and called for solving it without wasting time.

President as-Sadat went on to assert that he is not planning for the joining by Palestinians of the Palestinian autonomy talks now, but they are to join after receiving autonomy and then they are to shoulder the responsibility in full.

As-Sadat added that France adopted a certain policy which he did not understand, while West Germany still is supporting in full the settlement and Camp David Accords, and that the German stance is quite clear in this respect.

President as-Sadat said that he was sorry that the French president gave a chance for others to be misunderstood. [as received]

Following is the text of the interview granted by President as-Sadat to James Compton of NBC.

Question: Is it correct to say that in the whole Camp David agreement that the Palestinian, or the core, issue is that which has to be accomplished?

Answer: This is not in Camp David only. You remember when I gave my speech in the Knesset, at the time of my initiative. I stated quite plainly that I am not after a separate agreement or a third disengagement or a partial agreement. I am after a comprehensive agreement and the core and crux of the whole problem is the Palestinian question, so it should be solved.

Question: But do you now feel, or have, any encouragement that there will be progress on the Palestinians before that deadline comes up?

Answer: I cannot understand what you mean by progress on the Palestinians. If you mean that they join us, I tell you I am sorry I am not planning for their joining us in this phase. In this precise field we must sit together, the U.S., Israel and Egypt to interpret the Camp David agreement and apply it on the grounds of the full autonomy. In the moment everything will go to the hands of the Palestinians. I am not speaking for them now at all but if you tell me that the Palestinians should join now I shall say no, not now, but after they have received their full autonomy and they elect the body of the full autonomy, the Palestinian body then is to shoulder every responsibility.

Question: And do you think it is premature as the Europeans (are) doing, the French and Germans, to speak about a rapid progress for the Palestinian homeland?

Answer: Well, there is a great difference here between what you say and the homeland; the homeland is something, I mean, a fact they should have a homeland, but when you say that there is a European initiative and I have read about [Giscard] d'Estaing's visit and at the same time Genscher met with me here. Let me tell you this, what they plan is giving [a] hand in achieving the full autonomy and giving the peace process a momentum. Well, I can understand this. I discussed it with Genscher. You know that West Germany and even [Giscard] d'Estaing in his recent visit to the Gulf, when he said self-determination or so, how could it be applied except through our proper approach to the problem?

Question: But Mr President, they seemed to think that your initiative is stopped, that it is not moving right now and they think that progress has to come through whatever channel.

Answer: Well, I do not think the Germans think like this because it was only a few days ago that Genscher was here. No, this is not the point of view of Germany. It may be the point of view of (Giscard) d'Estaing, but also I must hear from him in the first hand. But if you asked about my idea, I did not lose hope, number one. Number 2, I am optimistic until the day [of] the deadline, May 26. It is not easy for me to be pessimistic or so.

Question: You mean to say that you are not a slight bit discouraged by the fact that we passed 10 months now and you do not have any substantial progress?

Question: Well, you always said that you have something at your sleeves, as we say.
[As-Sadat laughed]

Question: You know, lots of people are concerned that maybe your optimism is trying to put a goof [as received] pace on what is a very difficult situation. It is a deadlock, is it not, right now?

Answer: No, I cannot say it is a deadlock, or I would have declared it to my people and to the whole world. Not a deadlock. [As received] Before Camp David, we had 10 months of a very heavy campaign between me and the Israelis and between me and Begin and, at that time, we did not know each other, but this time we know each other and the difficulties that we face now can be surmounted very easily because before Camp David we had much more difficult problems and difficulties than what we are facing now. But the fact remains this, and that what I told Begin in many occasions either in Al-'Arish or in Alexandria or Haifa or in Aswan, until this moment both of us did not agree upon certain directives, political directives to give to our ministers to work on.

I mean the problem or the difficulties if you want. I mean to define it or to find it. This is the difficulty. I have told Begin that we should agree upon these political directives so that we make our ministerial level make the job much more easier for them, but it appears for a certain reason he could not, I mean, agree now on certain directives and he is leaving it to his ministers and so.

Question: According to the directives you are talking about, what sort of self-government would be given to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza? Is that what you mean?

Answer: No, because the problem is in the interpretation of what has been stated in Camp David under the title of full autonomy. They have their views and we have ours. My idea is this: Until I reach with Begin, and Begin reaches with me, a common understanding in the shape of directives that we give to our ministers, we shall face difficulties, and that is what we are facing now.

Question: It is going to require another summit, is it not?

Answer: I welcome the idea, I welcome the idea--you mean tripartite summit?

Question: Yes.

Answer: Tripartite with President Carter--I welcome the idea, but it could be reached between me and Begin because I am ready. If Begin is ready, well, it can be reached.

Question: You may say that at the ministerial level that the progress is not just materialising?

Answer: Not yet. Yes, there is no progress. You can say it. No progress even after the meeting in Holland, The Hague.

Question: The deadline is very close, indeed, is it not?

Answer: Yes, it is now the 26th of May.

Question: So you are saying you and Mr Begin are going to have to take charge of the situation, to get the ministerial talks moving again.

Answer: Thus is my idea, since Al-'Arish as I told you. Since last May I told Begin that, in order to achieve what we are after, really we should give the political directives to our ministers. Until this moment he is not ready to sit with me and put these directives.

Question: Back to Europeans. Are you discouraged that Mr. [Giscard] d'Estaing in particular has gone to some of your Arab critics and that some people have said it is simple as France and Germany wanting to assure their supply of oil for the future and jumping [to] the Palestinian side because they are concerned about petroleum?

Answer: Well, let me tell you this. There may be certain misunderstandings in the position of d'Estaing, but for us, there is no misunderstanding at all concerning the position of Germany. The German position has never weakened; they have supported Camp David as a step toward the comprehensive settlement and they continue to support it. From the side of France, France started under De Gaulle to be the pioneer in Western Europe but for certain reasons I do not know and I do not want to discuss, France has adopted a certain policy that I cannot understand. Well, but Germany remained in full support of the comprehensive settlement and Camp David as a step toward the comprehensive settlement.

Question: What do you think might be behind the French initiative?

Answer: Well, we have read a lot about this, and someone says that they want to have independence in their policies from the United States. Others say that there is certain interest for France, and in the last report (of) d'Estaing, we have heard about some certain arms deals between the Arabs he visited, and France also, providing his country with oil to guarantee the flow of oil to his country. A lot of things are said, but the fact remains with us. We have no objection for President [Giscard] d'Estaing to visit anyone he likes, because we do not adopt if he visits so. We shall be angered or so, not at all, not at all. But what comes out of this is that what really concerns us, and as I have stated before, any efforts by anyone who could bring us much more nearer to our goal, I am ready to accept.

Question: You do not think that they are trying to appear more pro-Palestinian than Anwar as-Sadat and that they are trying to embarrass Egypt or the Camp David agreement by appearing to be more actively pro-Palestinian?

As-Sadat: You mean?

Comment: I am thinking of the French.

Answer: The French, and not the Germans. We must be clear. The Germans have their very clear position in this. I am really sorry for my friend d'Estaing to give the opportunity for everyone to misunderstand. You know the straight line is the shortest road. Well, when you have side lines and side issues and so, and something behind the scene or so, this may be interpreted against President [Giscard] d'Estaing, but for me for sure, there is a misunderstanding. I cannot understand.

Question: I think their position is that the French seem to be saying there is no sign that there is tangible progress in the autonomy talks toward something for the Palestinians, toward autonomy and, in the absence of that, that maybe Camp David is not the correct framework.

Answer: Well, maybe, why not? I have met with lots who have been pessimistic all the time. I have been optimistic all the time, and I have been proven right.

Question: We were in Saudi Arabia a few weeks ago, and talked to Amir Sa'ud, the foreign minister. He said that the United States cannot expect to have any stable security arrangement with the governments of the Gulf until the Palestinian issue is solved. In other words, he said that the lack of progress, either in Camp David or any other forum toward self-rule for the Palestinians is the biggest threat to the stability of this region.

Answer: It is a threat. I quite agree with Sa'ud al-Faysal, because there came the moment when the question now is not at all the Arab-Israeli conflict. The question is much bigger and wider; it is about the security issue of the region here. After what was taken place in Iran, what has taken place in Afghanistan, in South Yemen, in Ethiopia. I quite solving this question and it is now, or may I say this, the situation now enhances that the Palestinian question should be solved without any, I mean, without losing much time.

Question: You have given the Israelis every possible concession. Egypt has been so scrupulous about every deadline and every detail of the treaty. They have not done the same for you and do you think there is danger that Egypt might be considered too soft now with the Israelis in this bargaining?

Answer: Let me tell you this in the field of the treaty between us and Israel. They have been very scrupulous in fulfilling their obligation and we have been very scrupulous also in fulfilling our obligation, but remember this: I said on time if Israel steps onestep, I shall step two. This is our policy. We are not soft but we want to seize this opportunity of direct relations and good intentions, to prove to the other side that they should do the same.

Question: But can it be said that you have given your two steps and Israel has not given one yet?

Answer: In the field of the full autonomy I cannot say this except after the 26th of May, not now.

Question: If Israel would come one step, you come two, right? Do you think that they have come one step so far in the autonomy talks?

Answer: Not yet. They are adopting Lenin's policy, one step forward and two steps backward.

Question: How can you afford to be encouraged when on the key issue, and you said this is the crux of the whole negotiations, that the Israelis have not met you half-way yet?

Answer: My dear, we have another 2 months till 26 May and changes take place not only in 1 day or 2 days, but it may be, in 1 hour. Changes may come, and we have an experience between us before Camp David. Before, we had very heavy 10 months attacks and campaigns against each other.

Question: Nevertheless, May 26 is Anwar as-Sadat's deadline. Is that right?

Answer: That is right.

Question: What do you mean by deadline?

Answer: A deadline means that when we have signed the Camp David agreements and after that the treaty, we had fixed one year for us to reach an agreement about the full autonomy. If we reach the 26th May, it is a violation. I mean without achieving anything, it is a violation and violation is very serious. That is what I mean by deadline.

Question: Serious in what? Does it make the treaty void or does it **not**?

Answer: Let us not involve the treaty between Egypt and Israel in this because the treaty between Egypt and Israel has been reached upon the first agreement in Camp David and this is okay. The second agreement in Camp David and the second paper is the full autonomy, let me tell you this in plain language. A new situation will arise, if we reach the 26th of May, the deadline, without achieving any progress or without the agreement upon what we have signed in Camp David in the second document.

Question: President as-Sadat, the words 'new situation would arise' could mean anything. Are you trying to give a notice to the Israelis that you review the Camp David agreement or the framework?

Answer: Part of it.

Question: You review it as not operating any longer or...

As-Sadat question: Which one? Either one?

Question: At Camp David you just said that Camp David will apply.

Answer: That is right.

Question: But the second document which related to the modalities for Palestinian autonomy. That is finished?

Answer: Not at all. No, no, not at all. But I said a new situation will arise.

Question: But you intend to go on bargaining?

Answer: I intend to continue the comprehensive peace settlement process.

Question: Would you agree that if the 26th of May arrives and there is no progress on autonomy that President Carter would be in a very embarrassing situation?

Answer: Why President Carter, why not Begin, why not Begin? As far as I know, I do not see anything against Carter at all. The man has done his best and is doing his best. He has contacted me yesterday by telephone and we have agreed upon certain arrangements that will be declared in a day or two.

Question: You are saying the burden falls on Mr. Begin if the autonomy talks fail.

Answer: Quite right.

Question: And what is that burden he has to accept?

Answer: Well, he has to face his people because it will mean that he stopped in the middle of the road. He has to face the whole world also.

Question: Then Egypt would be in a position where you have Sinai has been eighty percent returned and perhaps the Begin government would have demonstrated to the world where its intentions are.

Answer: Let me tell you this: As I have already stated before, the treaty between Egypt and Israel and the relations and the normalisation and everything is at the real cornerstone for the comprehensive settlement, so let us work and this is in our mind for sure--that who should explain himself before the whole world and before his people is Begin, not Carter and not me.

Question: You proposed a law to the parliament, which they translated as the law against shame for conduct.

Answer: It is ethics. The ethics law.

Question: Is it because of concern about some of the critics within Egyptian society and outside Egypt?

Answer: Why should it be like that? First of all let me remind you that those who have voted against the peace are 5 thousand votes, against 11 million overwhelming. Well, this is nothing at all. This law is the ethics law that you have in the States. You have it there and you have it much more serious than we have. For instance, what will be in this law. Could you afford in the United States that Americans sent an article abusing their country and receiving money for that from the Soviet Union? This is happening now here and they are protected by democracy here. No concentration camps, nothing at all, there is democracy. This law is against exploiting democracy and for teaching those-- and they are very few--teaching them the traditions of this land that has made us, during the foreign domination, to keep our unity and our personality all over the world.

So this is the law of ethics only; it need not be mentioned at all.

Question: Are you troubled when Muslim fundamentalists in this country say that Camp David was a treaty with Zionism?

Answer: Not at all. I know various Israeli journalists came and visited the Muslim Brothers and you cannot imagine what they have been told because there is a democracy here. They told them, we are against this, we are against Zionism you are so and so. In the Koran it is said so and so. They printed in their magazine, but we are a democracy. You remember the day I received the credentials of the Israeli ambassador. There had been two press conferences. One was made by the Communist Party here; the other, by what they call themselves the rejectionists and so, and all the correspondents went there asking questions and so, and none was put in prison for that. No, not at all. We are a democracy.

Question: We anticipate doing a piece about Jerusalem, to try to tell people why Jerusalem is so important to Muslims and we talked to several Arab leaders about it, Islamic leaders. Can you give us your view of what the intense feeling is to a Muslim about Jerusalem.

Answer: Let me tell you this in very few words. We pray now the five prayers toward our Qibla in Mecca. In the early days of Islam, we prayed the five prayers towards our Qibla in Jerusalem, the Aqsa Mosque. This will show you. I mean the most sacred shring we have there in Jerusalem. As much as Jerusalem is very sensitive for the Israelis, it is much more sensitive for 100 million of Arabs. They may, the Israelis are 3 millions and outside in the United States and Soviet Union another 5, 6 or 10 million Jews, but the fact remains that there are 800 million Muslims that are very sensitive in this question because it was our first Qibla. So it is to us much more sacred than the wailing wall to the Israelis whatever, I mean whatever they say, contrary to this.

Question: Thank you Mr President.

AS-SADAT MESSAGE ON WORLD ANTI-APARTHEID DAY

NC211941 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Mar 80 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has emphasized that the victory of the people in Zimbabwe is not a victory for Africa alone but also a victory for all mankind and all peace-loving peoples. He added that world support for and backing of the Zimbabwe strugglers was undoubtedly the spring from which they drew the stability of their struggle and their determination to triumph. He also said that this backing was a support for the strugglers when their leaders forged the peace, which Egypt supported.

In a message he addressed to the world today on the occasion of world anti-apartheid day, read on his behalf at the UN General Assembly by the leader of Egypt's permanent delegation to the United Nations, Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, President as-Sadat explained that Egypt's support for this step was based on its pioneer experience and experiment in this field. He said that the victories Egypt scored during the October War were the decisive factor in bringing about the success of the Egyptian peace initiative, which was supported by the world.

President as-Sadat went on: The experience derived from the victory of the people of Zimbabwe underlines the fact that there is a stage in each armed struggle when it is necessary to resort to the method of peaceful settlement and to negotiations to realize the legitimate demands and rights of the struggling peoples. The president asserted that serious and firm collective action will prove to the racist regime in South Africa that its fate is the same as that of its racist twin in Salisbury and that the victory of the people in Azania--South Africa and Namibia--is inevitable.

President as-Sadat demanded that world efforts in this regard be translated into practical and tangible deeds to achieve the aspired goal--the establishment of an international society where equality, justice and freedom would prevail and include each individual regardless of his race, color or religion.

In conclusion, President as-Sadat reaffirmed Egypt's support for international efforts and its readiness to extend all possible material and moral aid to support the helpless peoples and help its brothers in South Africa and Namibia in their struggle against injustice and racism. President as-Sadat emphasized that this would not distract Egypt from its sacred struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territory, including Arab Jerusalem, and restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH POLITICAL LEADERSHIPS IN MIT ABU AL-KAWM

NC222002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Mit Abu al-Kawm, 22 March--MENA has learned that President as-Sadat today met in Mit Abu al-Kawm with the political and executive leaderships in the Governorships of al-Minufiyah, Ad-Daqahliyah and Asyut. During the meeting President Anwar as-Sadat reviewed the methods of political and party action at this stage. His excellency also reviewed a working paper on the Arab situation and Egypt's heroic role in supporting the Arab countries. The president also reviewed the interest in and work on the food security projects, land rehabilitation, and the use of modern technology in agriculture.

During this meeting, the president affirmed that the national party is the party of the people, not the party of the elite.

At the end of his meeting, the president called for love and unity in all the spheres of national action and for eschewing hate in order to build a new Egypt.

Also participating in the 2-and-1/2-hour meeting were Vice President and Deputy Party Leader Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Deputy Prime Minister and National Democratic Party Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd; Minister of Supply and Internal Trade Nasif Tahun; Minister of State for the People's Assembly Affairs Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir, and Minister of State for the Presidency and General Supervisor of Education and Information Mansur Hasan 'Ali.

AS-SADAT ABOLISHES POST OF CHIEF OF PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

NC232240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2206 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has issued a decree abolishing the post of chief of the President's Office, which was named by Hasan Kamil.

The president issued another decree appointing Mahmud 'Abd an-Nasir as secretary general of the President's Office. Mahmud 'Abd an-Nasir was the chief of public relations at the President's Office.

KHALIL COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE, NEGOTIATIONS

Interview by HA'ARETZ

TA230800 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Amos Elon]

[Excerpts] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil said yesterday in a special interview to HA'ARETZ that when an acceptable solution to the Palestinian problem is found there will be a wider field for Egyptian-Israeli economic, cultural, political and strategic cooperation.

"The Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have to decide their future for themselves. Egypt will not do this for them but any solution must be within the framework of a federation or confederation between the Palestinians and the Kingdom of Jordan and maintain the economic links between Israel and the territories.

During the interim period in which the inhabitants of the territories enjoy self-rule the West Bank must remain "totally demilitarized," Dr Khalil stressed. The Palestinians must be forbidden from establishing an army or making any military alliance and this prohibition must be anchored in the constitution of the Palestinian entity which will be formulated at the end of the interim period.

Dr Khalil said that this view was also recently expressed in a message he sent to Sol Linowitz.

Israel has legitimate security interests in the West Bank, he said, and Egypt recognizes this, but Israel must interpret and define its interests. He therefore does not understand why Israel opposes the establishment of a joint committee to clarify these interests. "You have always said that you wanted peace and the Arabs did not. Now the Arabs are prepared to make a comprehensive peace and you refuse claiming that you have security interests upon which you are not prepared to elaborate.

However, large scale economic cooperation is not possible until there is progress on the Palestinian issue and despite this there has already been significant progress, he says, and tomorrow he will receive a report from a joint Israeli-Egyptian committee of agricultural development experts which has been very active and efficient in recent weeks, he says.

The committee which was established in the wake of talks with businessman Sha'ul Eisenberg and Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon looked into the possibilities of a major project involving Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. capital and knowledge to develop agriculture in the district of Sharqiyah. "After I clarify the matter of financing with Eisenberg I shall try to merge the project into the Egyptian 5-year plan," Khalil said. In any case, in principle the road is already open to Israeli investment in Egypt and Egyptian investment in Israel, Khalil pointed out.

Can the Palestinians be motivated to participate in the peace process? "Yes, if we insure that the autonomy looks attractive to them."

Are they not too much at odds and divided between themselves?

"Yes. The various factions in the PLO are pulling in different directions but, to my regret, the Israeli Government also has ministers who are trying to impose their views on the majority and are sabotaging the peace process."

Khalil said he was sorry to read in the papers that Ambassador Ben-Elisar is still isolated from a social point of view in the Egyptian capital. He knows Ben-Elisar and was impressed by his personal charm. He and his wife should feel good in Cairo.

Therefore, Khalil said, he has decided to hold a private party at his home in honor of Ben-Elisar, to which ministers and senior officials will be invited--something which he does not usually do for new ambassadors.

Corrections to Interview

NC232031 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2054 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 March--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has commented to MENA on the interview with his excellency which was published by the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ today.

In his comment, Dr Mustafa Khalil corrects points inserted by the correspondent in the prime minister's interview. The prime minister says that he emphasized to the HA'ARETZ correspondent that it is imperative for any solution in the West Bank to be based on the Palestinians' right to determine their own fate, and that it is imperative for any considerations of a federal or confederal union to come about through the will of the Palestinians themselves.

Concerning the statement which the newspaper's correspondent attributed to the prime minister on Palestinian-Israeli relations after the problem is solved, Dr Mustafa Khalil says that he pointed out that the achievement of peace between the two sides would consequently produce peaceful and normal relations.

With regard to the subject of security, Dr Mustafa Khalil says that the Camp David agreement [singular as received] stipulates the achievement of security for all parties, including the Palestinians.

In connection with what has been reported on the question of forming an army, Dr Mustafa Khalil says that he told the correspondent that it is possible to consider this subject in light of a discussion on security for all the parties.

Khalil Discusses 'Target Date'

TA221943 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 22 Mar 80 TA

[Interview with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil by Cairo Correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in Cairo, in English, time not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] One point is not clear, to me at least. That is, what would Egypt consider as sufficient progress in the talks in order to extend the target date and not turn it into a deadline?

[Answer] We are not turning 26 May into a deadline, as you said, but we would like to see progress in our negotiations, because until now we have only surveyed various points of view without having a response from the Israeli side on the differences and the gap which really separates the two points of view, either in the committee concerning modalities or in the committee concerning the powers and responsibilities.

Then another situation really occurred when the two committees which have been agreed upon, one on the legal matters and the other on economic affairs--and in The Hague we agreed that these two committees would be composed of high ranking officials, not ministers--and when we really set up the two committees, we did not have any response for their meetings from the Israeli side. So we are saying that very important issues are deferred without giving any reason. Also, the committee on security has been deferred for 3 months until now, and, in the meantime, we see that the Israeli side says that security is vital to us, without even trying to discuss the matter with the Egyptian side. All this indicates that the Israeli side is trying to defer and trying not to discuss the issues which are very important and trying not to give us their decision. That is why we are urging them to consider the matter more seriously than at the present time, and that is why we think that deferring things without having any limited time will not help the peace negotiations whatsoever.

[Question] Would I be right in saying that an Israeli agreement to form and activate the three committees, including the one on security, would be considered sufficient progress, sufficient indication of good will, in order to extend the negotiations beyond 26 May?

[Answer] Well, the Israeli side has proposed to form a steering committee, and to show our good will we have agreed to having a steering committee, but I always wonder what the steering committee is going to steer, as the committee on economic affairs and the committee on legal matters have not been agreed upon and the committee on security has not been formed. The two other committees have already put their work to the plenary, and I am rather skeptical about the real result that would happen from having a committee that steers nothing, because I don't know what they are going to steer.

Release of Palestine Bank Assets

NC222001 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1911 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mustafa Khalil has agreed to release the assets of the Bank of Palestine deposited in Egyptian banks. The assets will be released as soon as the bank officially resumes its functions.

As is known, the Bank of Palestine is a local popular establishment in Gaza which suspended its operations since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip.

KHALIL HOLDS 'FRUITFUL' TALKS WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR

NC231150 Cairo MENA in English 1140 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 23, (MENA)--Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil received this morning Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Israeli ambassador here. Following the meeting, the Israeli ambassador declared that his talks with Dr Khalil were fruitful and that matters of mutual interest for both countries were discussed during the meeting.

BADAWI SAYS EGYPT WILL TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST LIBYA

NC231037 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 March--Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi has affirmed that Egypt has no intention or inclination to embark upon any action against Libya. He said: Our forces currently stationed along the western border are there for defensive purposes only.

Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had turned Libya into an arms arsenal that exceeded the capability of his armed forces by several times. Libya's policy, which is not based on national objectives or logic, arises our anxiety. Consequently, this has placed another burden on Egypt and its armed forces to secure our western border against any possible danger.

In an interview published in AL-AHRAM today, Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi said that the Libyan forces were currently building defensive positions and fortifications--which we all know can be changed into offensive positions. What is disturbing is that they are building airbases and huge fortifications along the border area. He said if the Libyans were building these fortifications against Egypt they should save their money for the people there and for all the Arab people, who have enough problems, because Egypt has no hostile objectives against an Arab people--and will never have any.

Lt Gen Badawi said: Through peace we have been able to restore most of Sinai and are currently waging a strong battle to overcome the wall of "fear and doubt" with Israel and to secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinians while the rejectionist states are engaged in vituperations and other negative aspects. He said that Egypt had shouldered the burden of all the wars with Israel. Moreover, Egypt will assist the Arab states when they become aware of the ambitions and dangers facing them, which we know and for which we pity them.

Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi reaffirmed that the armed forces and all Egyptian people appreciate the peace agreement, saying: We in the armed forces appreciate the peace agreement more than others. We know what war means, and at the same time we know the value of the territory returned to us under the peace agreement preparatory to solving the basic problem: the Palestine question, restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and establishing a Palestinian state. No rational person embarks upon war for its own sake when he can obtain his full rights without bloodshed.

Concluding his interview, Lt Gen Badawi denied the presence of U.S. bases in Egypt, noting in this respect President Anwar as-Sadat's statement that Egypt was according facilities to the United States for defending the Arab countries and that such facilities were conditional upon defending these countries against any foreign danger. He said: If we allow the Americans the right to pass through our airspace, we likewise allow the socialist states the same right except when this is against our security or the security of any Arab state.

KING HUSAYN'S VISIT TO U.S. REPORTEDLY POSTPONED

JN221110 Doha QNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 22 March--Quoting well-informed sources in New York, the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH reports that the visit by His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan to the United States will not take place as scheduled due to the U.S. announcement about the convening of a new summit conference of the Camp David partners.

The paper quoted the sources as saying that the visit might be cancelled because the expected results of the new Camp David summit will not be acceptable to Arab governments, particularly Jordan.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BENDJEDID ARRIVES 24 MAR

JN241115 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Amman--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and general secretary of the FLN Party, arrived in Amman at noon today on a 3-day visit to Jordan in response to an official invitation from His Majesty King Husayn.

His Majesty King Husayn led those who received Jordan's distinguished guest. He was also received by their highnesses Princes 'Abdallah and Faysal, the prime minister, the presidents of the Senate and National Consultative Council, the commander in chief of the armed forces, the chief of the royal court, the ministers, high-ranking military and government officials and the heads of the diplomatic missions in Amman.

The official talks between His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Husayn will begin this afternoon. The talks will deal with the Arab stand on the current developments, consolidation of Arab cooperation and the unity of Arab efforts against the common enemy. The talks will also deal with the relations between the two fraternal countries.

PRINCE HASAN LEAVES FOR FRG, BRITAIN 24 MAR

JN240957 Amman JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Amman, 24 March--His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat left Amman for the FRG this morning on a 1-day private visit.

After concluding the FRG visit, His Highness Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat will leave for Britain. His highness will open in London tomorrow the first world conference on Jordan's history and antiquities, which will convene through cooperation between the Jordanian General Antiquities Department and Oxford University.

GOVERNMENT COMPLAINS TO SECURITY COUNCIL OVER ISRAELI ATTACKS

NC211245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus announced today that he has instructed Lebanon's permanent UN delegation to submit a complaint to the UN Security Council against Israel and to reserve the right to call for a Security Council meeting to consider this complaint because of the Israeli attacks and aggression against Sidon and other places. The foreign minister today followed reports on the situation in the south in the wake of recent developments. He also held a series of contacts for this purpose with the security commands.

Minister Butrus has said that he has asked the Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Kasrawan Labaki to summon the first counselor at the U.S. embassy in Beirut and to draw his attention to the dangers inherent in such actions and to the need for exerting pressure on Israel to stop its aggression against Lebanon. The foreign minister added that he has also sent his instructions to the Lebanese ambassador in Washington to carry out the necessary diplomatic contacts and stress in particular the danger to peace in the area and the violation of Security Council resolutions inherent in such Israeli aggressive actions.

Butrus Cease-fire Announcement

NC221216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] At noon today, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus announced that a cease-fire had been achieved in the south. He said: We are continuing the contacts we began yesterday with the Security Council, the UN Secretariat and the U.S. Government. Minister Butrus added: The possibility of calling for a Security Council meeting cannot be ruled out in light of the [current] developments in the situation. We have encountered a certain degree of diplomatic response because our case is just and our demands are related to the core of political ethics in international relations.

AL-HUSS INSPECTS SOUTH, CONDEMNS ISRAELIS

NC221344 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, accompanied by Finance Minister Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, this morning visited the south on an inspection tour following the shelling to which some southern areas had been subjected, especially Sidon and Tyre.

At the conclusion of the tour, Prime Minister al-Huss said:

[Begin Al-Huss recording] This was not my first visit to the south, and it will not be the last, the south is a dear part of the homeland. In view of the continuous, vicious Israeli aggression to which the south is being subjected, and in view of the resulting difficulties at this time, we thought it was our duty to pay this visit to inspect the conditions in the area and sense the people's feelings.

We admire the splendid demonstrations of steadfastness we have seen during this visit. I would not be saying anything new if I said that what we saw was very painful and was, in fact, a disgrace to the civilized world. The continuous and repeated Israeli aggression against the area, particularly against Tyre and recently against Sidon, has caused much suffering. From what we have seen, we now have sufficient facts to enable us, as officials, to take the necessary measures in order to meet the needs of this area and to alleviate the suffering of the steadfast citizens as much as possible. [end recording]

V. 24 Mar 80

S Y R I A

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DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AFFIRM CABINET RESHUFFLE IMMINENT

JN221403 Doha QNA in Arabic 1335 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 22 March--Arab diplomatic sources have affirmed that there will be a cabinet reshuffle in Syria shortly, the purpose being to give ministerial portfolios to a number of non-Ba'thist Party figures, as part of a new plan drafted by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to tackle the internal situation in Syria.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH, these sources pointed out that the Syrian president is moving ahead with consolidating his relations with the Soviet Union in a more prominent way than he has previously done. The sources also pointed out that the most noticeable result of the new relations between Damascus and Moscow is the presence of a Soviet air umbrella, entrusted with the task of protecting Syrian airspace against any Israeli aggression.

The newspaper added that President al-Asad has given the Syrian Communist Party and other parties that were banned the green light on political activities in public, enabling them to return to the scene publicly.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BENDJEDID ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JN221651 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and general secretary of the FLN Party, arrived in Damascus at 1600 today on his first official visit abroad. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who welcomed the Algerian president at Damascus international airport.

President Chadli Bendjedid is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui, Political Bureau member and FLN Party coordinator; Mohamed Ben Yahia, Political Bureau member and minister of foreign affairs; Col Abdallah Belhouchet, Political Bureau member and inspector general of the People's National Army; Mohamed Amir, Political Bureau member and chairman of the party committee for social affairs; Ahmed Ali Ghazali, Central Committee member and minister of public works; Sulayman Hoffman, Central Committee member and head of the party foreign relations committee; and a number of other Algerian officials.

Al-Asad, Bendjedid Make Statements

JN222108 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad made a press statement upon Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's arrival at the guest palace in Damascus, on an official visit to Syria. President al-Asad said: It gives me great pleasure to welcome my brother and friend President Chadli Bendjedid to Damascus in the name of our people. I also welcome the brother officials accompanying his excellency the president. It gives me even greater pleasure to realize that brother President Chadli Bendjedid has chosen his visit to Damascus as his first official visit since he assumed responsibility in fraternal Algeria.

The love and respect that our people harbor for the fraternal heroic Algerian people are unlimited. Our people, as they have in the past, consider the Algerian people and the Algerian revolution a strong firm pillar of the Arab revolution and of the Arab struggle against colonialism, Zionism, capitulation, defeatists, reaction and for a better life for the entire Arab nation.

The Algerian people's sacrifices and martyrs throughout history and during their upheaval against colonialism are an asset not only for the Algerians but for the entire Arab nation, including the Syrian people. This asset is highly regarded and appreciated by every single citizen in Syria. It must be so for every Arab citizen.

The trust and strong bonds between us are known to all. However, we will continue to further promote these bonds and further strengthen this cooperation. This visit will give us the chance to discuss the situation and recent developments in the area. Naturally, we will pay particular attention to conditions in the front to which we in Syria and Algeria belong--the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. We will discuss ways to further develop and entrench this front, so that, consequently, the Arab nation's defensive ability can be strengthened. We will also discuss how to resist more efficiently the plans of colonialism, the U.S.-Israeli-As-Sadat designs and those of their lackies in the area. We will discuss how to counter these designs with efficiency and success, which will achieve victory for the Arab nation's masses, preserve their integrity and restore the Arab rights. Of course, we will discuss bilateral cooperation and how to further develop it. As I said, this cooperation is in good condition; yet we will work to achieve more.

Once again, I would like to welcome President Chadli Bendjedid and the brother Algerian officials. I wish them a happy stay and hope that there will be enough time to permit brother President Chadli to meet with groups of our people.

The Algerian president also made a statement upon arriving in Damascus. He said: I am happy that my first official visit is to the Arab homeland, particularly to Syria, which to us represents the frontline state that shoulders a heavy burden in defending the Arab nation and the Arab nation's integrity. This state represents Arab steadfastness.

Actually, I did not come to discourse but to speak with my brothers and to be with them under the conditions of Arab steadfastness that are represented here in Syria. Syria's history is one of sacrifices and heroism. Today we recall the heroism of Salah ad-Din al-Ayyubi, Khalid Ibn al-Walid [famous Muslim military leaders] and all of the martyrs who sacrificed to preserve Arab unity and integrity. On this occasion, I assure my brother President Hafiz al-Asad, all officials in Syria and the entire Syrian Arab people of Algeria's commitment and absolute support. We came here to reaffirm our adherence to everything said by the late President Houari Boumediene during his last visit, which was to Syria. This is a vow made by the Algerian people and their political leaders.

Of course, during my meetings with brother President Hafiz al-Asad, we will exchange viewpoints on the Arab nation's most important issues and on means of further strengthening Arab steadfastness and struggle. The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front expresses the Arab nation's will and rejection of the capitulatory and defeatist policy, which started with the Egyptian president's visit to holy Jerusalem. We have to move to further support the steadfast stands. Hence, Algeria is always among the Arab ranks against the defeatist policy and the partial capitulatory settlements, which do not serve the basic cause, that of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, I bring greetings from the Algerian people to the fraternal Syrian people. Once again I assure the Syrian people that we will always stand beside our brothers, beside the Syrian people and their political leadership. Reaction and imperialism are trying to create problems and difficulties.

We are aware of this. Yet despite all problems and difficulties, Syria is still steadfast. We are sure that Syria will continue to be a symbol of steadfastness. All progressive states and those believing in the justice of the cause will stand beside Syria and the fraternal Syrian people.

At 1830, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Chadli Bendjedid met at the Ad-Dimashqiyyah Hall. The two presidents talked on general issues. Afterward, President Hafiz al-Asad gave a dinner banquet at the Ad-Dimashqiyyah Hall in honor of President Chadli Bendjedid. The banquet was attended by the members of the Algerian delegation; Comrade 'Abdallah al-Hamar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary; the comrade members of the party pan-Arab and regional commands; the deputies of the prime minister; the ministers; the mayor of Damascus; the ministers' deputies and heads of the diplomatic missions in Damascus.

Presidents Hold Talks

JN231420 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Chadli Bendjedid began at 1000 this morning in the presidential palace. Attending the talks on the Syrian side were Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense; Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, minister of information; Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad, minister of education; and Ahmad Madaniyah, the Syrian ambassador to Algeria.

On the Algerian side, the talks were attended by Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui, Political Bureau member and FLN Party coordinator; Mohamed Ben Yahia, Political Bureau member and minister of foreign affairs; Col Abdallah Belhouchet, Political Bureau member and inspector general of the People's National Army; Mohamed Amir, Political Bureau member and chairman of the party committee for social affairs; Ahmed Ali Ghazali, Central Committee member and minister of public works; Sulayman Hoffman, Central Committee member and head of the party foreign relations committee; and a number of other Algerian officials.

The two delegations discussed the items on the agenda in an amicable and fraternal atmosphere, distinguished by the continued accord between the two revolutions and cooperation between the two states. The situation in the Arab region and the effect of world events upon it were reviewed. The dimensions of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught on the national progressive policy in the Arab world were analyzed. The need to confront this onslaught and the role of Syrian-Algerian cooperation in doing so and in shouldering the historical responsibility of preventing imperialist Zionism from realizing its goals against the Arab nation were stressed.

In this respect, President Chadli Bendjedid asserted Algeria's total support for Syria in its confrontation with the reactionary onslaught and in its resistance to the Camp David plot. He said: Algeria will not hesitate to take any step that will help the Syrian brothers to bolster their struggle and enable them to assert their steadfastness and strengthen their national progressive struggle.

The delegations reviewed the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front's situation and the importance of bolstering its role and developing its means of action. The results of contacts among front members to date were reviewed. It was decided to complete consultations with other front members, to decide on the date and venue of the coming front summit.

Bilateral relations were also reviewed. Both delegations expressed their satisfaction with the development of these relations in various fields and asserted their common interest in opening new areas of fruitful bilateral cooperation.

AL-ASAD, BENDJEDID ADDRESS SPORTS CONFERENCE

Al-Asad's Speech

JN232005 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session of the Syrian Sports Federation emergency conference in Damascus on 23 March--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers and sons, it gives me pleasure to begin my speech by welcoming on your behalf our great guest, President Chadli Bendjedid. [applause] It also gives me pleasure to extend, on behalf of the Syrian people, greetings of amity and appreciation for the fraternal Algerian people and to affirm to this fraternal and heroic nation that we are together on the road against colonialism, capitulation, exploitation and agency, until the attainment of certain victory. [applause]

I have recently said and I repeat today: Allah Akbar [God is great]. This is the people. Behold the people. I have recently addressed the workers, the peasants, the students, the teachers and the artisans. Last but not least, today I am addressing the athletes. This is the people. Behold the people. May the enemies of the people die. I have previously said and I reiterate it today: There are two invincible powers: the power of God and the power of the people. [applause]

Brothers and sons, when one meets with the young, he sees a smiling and glittering future. When one meets with you, athletes and youth, one is reassured about the safety of the path and the objective, because you are the upholders of the objective and the beacons of the path, who are determined to achieve the objective despite all difficulties and sacrifices.

Sportsmen, your federation is the progeny of the revolution and the corrective movement. You believed in the revolution and its path. You believed in the goals of the revolution and the party of the revolution--the party of unity, freedom and socialism. Sensing the U.S.-Israeli-reactionary plotting against our people and nation, it was natural for you to convene a conference to study the situation, to arrange your affairs and to take measures that will enable you and our people to confront this conspiracy and to crush it and the conspirators. [applause] With the rest of our people, you will make the United States, Israel and agent reaction understand that the people's revolution is in the hands of the people and that it cannot be sniped at or taken by surprise. [applause] We cannot be taken by surprise because we are vigilant. We monitor all of your moves and your plotting. O reactionaries, it is our duty to fight you, for this is dictated by justice and the suffering of the toiling masses.

The freedom that the reactionaries want is not want the freedom of the youth, the freedom of creativity and the freedom of the workers, peasants, toilers and strugglers in this homeland. They want the freedom to kill, exploit and suck blood and the freedom to collaborate with colonialism and the colonialists. This is the freedom that they want.

Young men, you should know the history of your nation and country, so that you can build the future well. Who divided our country? Who fragmented our nation? Who divided Arab Syria and paved the way for the occupation of Palestine and the establishment of Israel? Reaction did all of this, in collaboration with colonialism. In the recent past, this Arab Syria extended from Sinai to the Taurus mountains. Who divided this Syria? Where is this Syria now? Why did they dismember Syria? Reaction, allied with colonialism, did all of this, because the reactionaries' interests are intertwined with those of the colonialists. The permanent reactionary slogan of reaction and colonialism is divide and rule.

Isn't Syria now the Arabs' forefront against Israel? Isn't Syria now the real and serious obstacle to the Camp David accords? Isn't Syria now the one that is shouldering the largest burden in the battle? Do the Arabs now have a confrontation frontline other than Syria? Is Syria carrying out its responsibility honorably or not? If the Arab brethren want to confront the capitulatory accords, can they do so effectively if Syria is weakened and marches along the Camp David line? The answers to all of these questions are obvious and clear. Syria is the frontline. It is shouldering its mission honorably and sincerely. It is ready to offer sacrifices and is paying the price of its brave pan-Arab stands. If Syria collapses, all Arab steadfastness will collapse. This is known and admitted by every Arab struggler and all honest Arabs everywhere.

For this reason, the United States, Israel and their odious agent, reaction, are trying to confuse and weaken Syria, so that it will fall in the swamp of the U.S.-Israeli hegemony, now that agent As-Sadat has placed fraternal Egypt in the center of this sinful swamp. After this, we would have but one task left; namely, to carry out the orders of the masters, the orders that would come to us from Washington and Tel Aviv. The serious and crucial link in the chain of the historic tasks of agent reaction is to shake and weaken Syria's steadfastness and to crush it if they can. Why didn't the reactionaries act before the treasonous visit and the Camp David accords? Why didn't the reactionaries move with this strength and ferocity prior to the treasonous trip and the Camp David accords? They didn't do so because they want to go to Jerusalem and prostrate themselves at the feet of the invaders.

Since the beginning, the reactionaries' task was to distort facts on the Arab arena and to tell the people that the Syrian people support As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Their task was to cast doubts about me personally and to convince me that the Syrian people support As-Sadat's visit. When they were unable to do anything and when they were unable to influence the brave and lofty march of the people, they began doing what they are doing now. When they were unable to alter the country's march, they began doing what they are doing now. Yes, they want to go to Jerusalem. They want to impose capitulation upon the people. They want the freedom to kill the citizens, to pave the way for the imposition of surrender. Wherever we turn our faces, we see evidence of what we are saying. Wherever we turn our faces, we find proof of what we are saying.

I would like to clarify a point on the Muslim Brotherhood party in Syria. The Muslim Brothers in Syria are not all with the assassins. The great majority of them condemn murder and are opposed to the killers. This majority believes that they should work for the sake of religion and not for any other objective. We have absolutely no differences with these. On the contrary, we encourage them. We encourage anybody who works for religion and to uphold religious values. [applause] These are entitled, in fact, it is their duty to make suggestions and to demand anything from us that might support and uphold religion. We will not shirk and will not allow anyone to surpass us in this context. We encourage those who work for religion and fight those who exploit religion for nonreligious objectives. We also fight the reactionaries who are trying to exploit the faithful in our country for their dirty political designs. [applause]

In an article in its last issue written by its chief editor, the magazine AD-DA'WAH, organ of the Muslim Brotherhood organization in Egypt, calls on the Egyptian masses not to use violence against the Israeli presence in Egypt. The chief editor says: If you destroy the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, Israel will build another embassy paid for by the Egyptian people. Therefore, you should not destroy this embassy.

Young men, can you imagine this? They do not want to destroy Israel's embassy so that this will not be a large economic burden on the fraternal Egyptian people. There, the destruction of the Israeli Embassy is an economic loss. While here in Syria, the destruction and burning of consumer establishments is an economic gain. There, religion and justice are one thing, while here in Syria religion and justice are something else. There, religion, justice and patriotism require that we do not act violently against the Israeli Embassy building and do not destroy this building. Here in Syria, religion, patriotism and struggle require that we destroy and burn consumer establishments, the property of the people, which were built with your sweat, efforts and blood.

In the same article, the chief editor of the magazine and official in charge of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt asks the Egyptians not to stage violent demonstrations against the residences of the Israeli Embassy staff. There, violence is not permissible against the Israeli staffers in Cairo. Here, violence should be used and murder must be used against Syrian citizens, students, military personnel, workers, peasants, men of religion, scholars and all sectors of the people.

Brothers and sons, we will not surrender. You will not surrender. We will not surrender because we are with the people and the people do not surrender. We will not surrender because we are with the nation and the nation does not surrender. We will never surrender. We will never surrender, because we are with God. Whoever is with the people and God, the people and God will be with him and victory will be with him. As for the reactionaries, they are with the devil. They are with the United States and Israel. Their fate will be similar to that of all the traitors and renegades who have deviated from the will of their peoples and betrayed this will. Their fate is punishment on earth and retribution in heaven. Their punishment on earth is in your hands. [applause] Their retribution in heaven was decided by God in heaven, when he said: If a man kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is hell, to abide therein forever; and the wrath and curse of God are upon him, and a dreadful penalty is prepared for him [Koranic verse]. This was clearly stated in the text of the holy Koran. O reactionaries, where are you as far as God's religion is concerned? You did not kill an individual or a few individuals only. You are killing a people and are trying to crush a nation.

Young men, athletes: We in the National Progressive Front and the party continue to debate that which we previously decided upon; namely, expanding and developing the National Progressive Front. I would like to say a few words on this subject, in case there are some questions by citizens regarding what has been accomplished in this area. We are still discussing the matter. On principle, we are all agreed that the National Progressive Front is open to all enemies of Camp David. [applause] At a time when we are discussing the status of our popular organizations, I hereby announce that which has been agreed upon, while waiting for the completion of the other steps, particularly those pertaining to the popular organizations. I announce the workers' and peasants' joining of the National Progressive Front. [applause] We will continue our discussion on subsequent steps, particularly pertaining to the popular organizations. I hope to speak to you on this subject in a future meeting.

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Brothers and sons, young men: There is no going backward, but constant movement forward. This is the law of the universe and the will of the people. There is no going backward because this is the desire of agents. The desire of agents cannot stand before the desire and steadfastness of the people. Despite the United States, Israel and agent reaction, you have rejuvenated the youth of the revolution. Despite the states, Israel and agent reaction, we will triumph against liquidation and capitulation. [applause] I extend my greetings to every athlete here and in every Syrian city and village. [applause] Forward with the vanguards of your people against injustice, exploitation and reaction and for the realization of progress and socialism. May God grant you success. Peace be upon you.

Benjedid's Speech

JN232014 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of speech by Algerian President Col Chadli Bendjedid at the opening session of the Syrian Sports Federation emergency conference in Damascus on 23 March--recorded]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, Syrian youth, sons of the steadfast people: In my name and on behalf of the delegation, I convey to you the greeting of your brothers in Algeria, [applause] who are following the steadfastness of the Syrian struggling people with utmost interest, appreciation and pride. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, this overflowing zeal is one of the onward-driving factors that support all sincere Arab leaderships, which believe in our just causes. All of this increases our faith in our revolutionary stands. In fact, I came to Syria to learn the meaning of order and steadfastness. [applause] which [word indistinct] steadfast. [applause] You are steadfast against the Zionist enemy, imperialism and conspiracies.

Syria, in our opinion, shoulders the heavy burden of daily struggle and steadfastness. In the name of the Algerian revolution and the Algerian people, I tell our brothers in Syria that Algeria is always with you, in both good and bad times, in the same way that Syria, the struggling Syrian people, supported the Algerian revolution in the recent past, during our time of liberation.

I thank you again for your fraternal reception. In the name of Algeria I tell you that we are marching ahead. We hope to give a supporting push to the Arab nation, which believes in rejection. We will also move within the framework of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to confront all treason, all capitulation and partial settlements which, in fact, come at the expense of the Arab cause and the daily struggle of our people in occupied Palestine.

Greetings to you; and through you, I greet our brothers in every part of Syria. I tell you that we are always with you, as you were with us in the past. The destiny of the Syrian and Algerian revolutions is a joint destiny. [applause] We must unify our efforts and potential to confront the enemies of the Arab nation, which are colonialism and imperialism. Thank you and peace be upon you. [applause]

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID-LED DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR SYRIA

LD221404 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 80 ID

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and general secretary of the FLN Party, has left Algiers for Damascus for an official visit to Syria at the invitation of Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. The president is accompanied by an important delegation consisting of Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui, member of the Political Bureau and party coordinator; Mohamed Ben Yahi, member of the Political Bureau and minister for foreign affairs; Col Abdallah Belhouchet, member of the Political Bureau and inspector general of the People's National Army; Mohamed Amir, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the party committee for social affairs; Ahmed Ali Ghozali, member of the Central Committee and minister of public works; Sulyaman Hofmann, member of the Central Committee and head of the party foreign relations committee; Osman Yazid, member of the Central Committee; Dr Muhyi ad-Din Ali Nur, member of the Central Committee and counsellor to the presidency; Maouloud Hamrouth, member of the Central Committee and director general of protocol; Abdelmalek (Sharshabi), member of the Central Committee and director at the presidency; Ahmed Baghli, director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Muhammad ar-Rab'i, deputy head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

LIBYA

NIGER PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE WELCOMED TO LIBYA BY JALLUD

LD221418 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 80 ID

[Text] President of Niger, Seyni Kountche arrived at noon today in Tripoli on a visit to the Jamahiriya. He was welcomed at the airport by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, the secretaries of the General People's Committee, the secretary general of the OAU, Edem Kodjo, diplomats and members of the Niger Embassy.

In a statement to JANA, the president explained that the visit was within the framework of direct contacts to strengthen ties of friendship and brotherhood between the Libyan and Niger peoples. He stressed that his meetings in Libya would be a means of reviewing fraternal relations, the stage they had reached and ways of strengthening them in the interests of the two brotherly peoples. The president of Niger is accompanied by a delegation which includes Minister of Economic Affairs, Trade and Industry Mai Maigana, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Daouda Diallo, and Interior Under Secretary Malam Moussa.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD231846 Tripoli JANA in English 1700 GMT 23 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Benghazi, March 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today received the Niger's president, Seyni Kountche, who arrived in Benghazi this morning as part of his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

'Closed Meeting'

ID222004 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 22 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Tripoli, 22 March--A closed meeting was held this evening between Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Seyni Kountche, the president of the Niger Supreme Military Council, who arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Secretary Dr. 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki.

BULGARIAN BUILDING MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

ID232028 Tripoli JANA in English 1725 GMT 23 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Tripoli, March 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Bulgarian minister of construction, Mr. Ivan Sakarev, arrived in Tripoli today for a several day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. During the visit the Bulgarian minister will hold talks with Libyan Arab officials aimed at strengthening relations between the two peoples in both countries. The president of the Petrochemical Workers Unions of Bulgaria also arrived on the same plane. He is due to attend the fifth international anti-oil monopolies conference which is expected to be convened here in Tripoli between 26-30 March.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI BRIEFS CABINET ON OUTCOME OF GULF TOUR

JN231729 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 23 (SUNA)--Chaired by President Ja'far Numayri, the Sudanese Council of Ministers today held its fourth ordinary meeting. The president briefed the meeting on the outcome of his recent tour of [the] kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar. The ministers who accompanied the president in his Gulf tour also informed the meeting on the outcome of the negotiations in the economic and political domains.

The council regarded the outcome of the visit as a positive step in consolidating bilateral relations for the benefit of the Arab nation. Sudanese First Vice President General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, who visited Ethiopia earlier this month, briefed the council on his successful visit and the positive and constructive dialog aimed at solving problems between the two countries to lay down strong bases for good neighbour relations. Gen Khalil also disclosed a scheduled visit of an Ethiopian delegation to Sudan to activate [the] joint consultative ministerial committee between the two countries.

AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS, DISCUSSION OF 26 MAY DATE DEADLINE

Ben-Elisar To Convey Begin Stand

TA221111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, has been asked to clarify in his contacts with members of the Egyptian administration that the prime minister believes no disaster would occur if no agreement on the establishment of the autonomy is reached by 26 May and that contacts should continue even after that date as was done after the Camp David framework agreements were signed.

Egyptian Delegations' Arrival

TA230909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Egyptian autonomy and normalization delegations arrived in Israel a short time ago. The normalization delegation is headed by General Majdub. The Egyptian autonomy delegation is made up of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry personnel.

As-Sadat Message Termed 'Rude'

TA221109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 80 TA

[Text] President as-Sadat has said that 26 May is the final date for the autonomy talks and if these talks fail, the Israeli prime minister will be held responsible for it. In a message sent at the end of the last week to the prime minister, As-Sadat said that if the negotiations do not end by this date, it will have serious implications insofar as Israel is concerned and with respect to international relations.

Political circles voiced their comments on this letter to our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, saying that it is formulated in an unpleasant style and contains a distorted interpretation of the Camp David accords--as 26 May is merely the goal to be aspired to, but not a final date.

The prime minister will bring the letter to the Cabinet session tomorrow for discussion.

Cabinet Meeting

TA231210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Today the cabinet did not discuss the contents of the answer to President as-Sadat's letter which was formulated by the prime minister. This is reported by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Our correspondent also reports that in his letter to Mr Begin President As-Sadat complained that he had not yet received an answer to his proposal to introduce autonomy to the Gaza Strip first. President as-Sadat raised this proposal in the Aswan talks.

It emerges from the prime minister's report in the Cabinet meeting that in his letter President as-Sadat emphasizes that real results in the autonomy talks should be reached by 26 May.

The Cabinet meeting is continuing now. The Cabinet is holding an extensive discussion about the proposal to populate the houses in Hebron.

The Cabinet will hold a political discussion prior to Mr Begin's departure for talks with President Carter.

Linowitz: 26 May 'Target Date'

TA231418 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] U.S. ambassador to the autonomy talks Sol Linowitz says that even if no agreement is achieved by 26 May, but the momentum is increased, this will not be to the dissatisfaction of any of the parties in the negotiations. He emphasized that Washington regards 26 May as a target date, not as a final date for the completion of the negotiations. This, he said, is a target we are aiming at.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Sol Linowitz arrived in Israel less than an hour ago and said he was bringing with him a message from President Carter to Prime Minister Menahem Begin. This evening they will meet in Jerusalem.

Linowitz Comments

TA231652 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Our correspondent Rafi Reshef is back from Ben-Gurion Airport with this report on Sol Linowitz' arrival here. [begin recording]

[Linowitz] It's been just about 3 weeks since Dr Burg and Prime Minister Khalil and I met together at The Hague in the last round of our negotiations. These 3 weeks have not been easy ones. Israel and the United States have had some disagreements. Differences between us on important questions have come to the surface. We had been disappointed in one another.

[Reshef translates the above and continues] Referring to the target date, Linowitz said: I believe all parties will make their maximum efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement by 26 May. But what will happen if not, the correspondents asked.

[Linowitz] If by that date, 26 May, we have not reached full agreement on every particular, but there is an ongoing momentum with promise and prospects of early success, I don't think anybody will feel too badly.

[Reshef--translates above and continues] Minister Burg wishes to add something on the same subject:

[Burg] I see 26 May as a date that is an incentive to come as close as possible to something in the line of an agreement.

[Reshef--translates above into Hebrew] [end recording]

Begin-Linowitz Meeting

TA232020 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Mr Linowitz met with Prime Minister Menahem Begin this evening and discussed issues pertaining to the autonomy talks. The meeting lasted for about 2 hours, and most of it was private. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen says that at the end of the meeting, Ambassador Linowitz refused to answer questions by correspondents.

Tomorrow an additional meeting between the prime minister and the U.S. envoy is expected. Only a few minutes ago the prime minister left his office and our correspondent Yoram Ronen heard statements from him, while in the background shouts by demonstrators, probably from the Peace Now Movement, could be heard calling on Mr Begin to resign.
[begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, could you tell us something of your talk with Ambassador Linowitz?

[Answer] I couldn't tell you the contents of our talk. This was an extensive talk and a very cordial one. We discussed issues of the negotiations, and we shall meet again tomorrow.

[Question] Was the subject of repopulating the houses in Hebron raised in the talk?

[Answer] Among other things, yes.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, could you perhaps at this opportunity explain why you asked the Cabinet to decide on the Hebron issue today of all days?

[Answer] Because we have discussed it several times. Today there was a lengthy discussion, and the Cabinet must make decisions after a discussion.

[Question] And you believe that the timing is good before your leaving for Washington?

[Answer] Yes, we discussed the timing too. Everybody voiced his own opinion. I think that this is an important and vital decision.

[Question] And you believe that this will not disturb your talks in Washington?

[Answer] I do not think so. [end videotape]

LINOWITZ DENIES REPORTS OF MONDALE STATEMENT

TA241019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz says that Vice President Walter Mondale did not say that the United States recognizes the right of Jews to settle everywhere, even in the West Bank, but [he does recognize their right] to live everywhere. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Sol Linowitz made the remarks to Prime Minister Menahem Begin before entering the latter's office. Linowitz said that he had seen the draft of the speech and this was what it had said. Before that, he met with Minister of the Interior Yosef Burg.

CONSUL IN CAIRO SEEKS OWN RECALL

TA241130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The consul in the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, Dr Yosef Hadas, is demanding that he be recalled to Israel. Our political correspondent has learned that Dr Hadas was in Jerusalem recently and asked the directorate of the Foreign Ministry to replace him.

Our correspondent reports that as far as can be seen, (Tzvi Maz'el), who recently dealt with the affairs of the normalization with Egypt, will replace him.

PERES: CARTER STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM 'GRAVE'

TA231122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Shim'on Peres says that President Carter's declaration that he will not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital is very grave and unprecedented. According to Mr Peres early elections are not only a certain party's interest, but a matter of national importance. Waiting until the end of this government's term will lead to an increased economic deficit of \$20 billion. The United States will then be past its Presidential elections and we will find ourselves in a crisis with Egypt. Peres made this statement in Qiryat Gat in a meeting with highschool students.

WEIZMAN KEEPS SILENT IN CABINET SESSION; CITES LEAKS

TA231622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpts] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on what had been going on at the Cabinet meeting. The defense minister, who was among those opposing the proposal, did not speak during the session. Everything is leaking out, he said, and hence he prefers to keep silent. Cabinet members who have spoken with Minister Weizman recently feel that he has become fed up with serving in the Cabinet. In private he talks about the resignation of the Cabinet in the not too distant future.

HEBRON ISSUE DRAWS REACTION FROM POLITICS, LEADERS

Gush Emunim Allows 'Concessions'

TA211128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Mar 80 TA

[Text] A yeshiva has been operating for 6 months now in a building in the entrance of the Hebron kasbah near the Makhpela Cave, reports our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh. It is not known how this yeshiva received the building in question, but the yeshiva there is operating with the knowledge of the authorities. The students of this yeshiva at the entrance of the kasbah also live there. Our correspondent goes on to say that in anticipation of the Cabinet session that is due to discuss on Sunday the populating of the houses in Hebron, Qiryat Arba' Gush Emunim members are willing to make concessions to the Cabinet, in that they will welcome even a decision to establish in those houses a yeshivat hesder [a paramilitary yeshiva], without insisting on populating the houses with families. The yeshivot hesder center supports the proposal that the Qiryat Arba' yeshiva establish a branch in Hebron.

Hadassah Building Repair

TA211437 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] Recently, extensive repair work was carried out in the Hebron Hadassah building's halls and rooms. This has been reported by an ITIM correspondent who participated in a tour for journalists today in the Hebron Jewish quarter. The tour was initiated by Rabbi Moshe Levinger in anticipation of the Cabinet session in 2 days in which the resettlement of these building [with Jews] will be discussed.

Decision To Settle Houses

TA231406 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to settle the houses in Hebron and establish a yeshiva [religious college] with a boarding school and a field school in it. Eight ministers voted in favor of the decision, six ministers voted against it and two abstained.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich Gid'on Pat, Prof Yiga'el Yadin, Shmu'el Tamir and Yisra'el Katz opposed the proposal. Ministers Abu-Hatzera and Moda'i abstained and Minister Burg did not attend the session.

Prof Yiga'el Yadin announced, in the name of the Democratic ministers, that he wants to protest the decision to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and until then nothing will be done.

Yadin Opposes Decision

TA231643 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin interviewed by Yitzhaq Golan on direct line program --live]

[Excerpt] [Question] Professor Yadin, you have just come a few minutes ago to the studio from the Cabinet session. In fact, you rushed to us, and my question is: Is this the correct time and political climate to make a decision to settle several houses in Hebron, to establish the yeshivat hesder and a field school in Hebron?

[Answer] I think not and, in fact, I and my colleagues--also including several colleagues from the Liberal Party--fought a campaign today, I could say it was a very difficult one, against that decision....

[Question] And very prolonged....

[Answer] Very prolonged. I regard the results of the voting, to a certain extent, if one could phrase it like this, as a reply to your question. Eight voted in favor of that proposal you read out, six voted against, two abstained and one did not attend at all and there is no harm in that.

I used the right I have in accordance with the coalition agreement for a case of this sort, to transfer the decision to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, and until then nothing will be done. This was what the cabinet decided. I think this is a mistake.

[Question] Sir, is such a decision, today, good for the Government of Israel on the eve of the prime minister's departure for Washington? What will be your arguments against approving this decision?

[Answer] Arguments against touch on three or four areas. Some of them are ones of principle, some are operative and some are tactical. For example, the last thing you asked me comes under the heading of tactical considerations.

To the best of our knowledge, most of us...certainly it is my intention, on the eve of the prime minister's trip, to struggle for the very fact of our existence, for basic problems. A decision of this sort diverts attention, and it could weaken the support we could have even from friends. This is a tactical problem.

From the operative aspect, my claim is that there are security settlements and other settlements that have been approved but have not even been started. They have not even been budgeted. This is not the most urgent matter.

From the ideological viewpoint, I said this: The establishment of Qiryat Arba' was more or less in accordance with a national consensus. This could have been called Hebron 'Ilit [Upper Hebron] just like Nazareth 'Ilit. The fact that we pray in the Makhpelah Cave--this is the genuine religious, historical link we have--is a very important fact [words indistinct] the Muslims. Even in Jerusalem we are not doing this. So that, from all aspects, we are linked to Hebron. To enter the Arab colony there now with one thing or another will either cause an increase [as heard] or it will be the sort of issue that must be defended. That is a mistake. All the more so as it is very difficult to explain such an issue even to our friends abroad.

For example, I was in England when it was announced that the government had requisitioned several thousand dunams in Jerusalem. I do not know whether it has to be in such a form, but this I can say: I accept such a decision, and I think it is for the benefit of the integrity of Jerusalem. Nobody was harmed there, and this is essential for its security and defense. On the matter of Hebron, I said and other colleagues also felt that we are fighting a very hard campaign. We must recruit every ounce of support. This sort of thing weakens us.

Labor Party Reaction

TA231703 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1505 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, 23--The Labor Party reactions team states: The Cabinet decision regarding the establishment of a yeshiva and a boarding school inside Hebron is completely negative from the aspect of the harm to Israel in international public opinion, and from Israel's viewpoint it contains nothing positive. This miserable and dangerous decision has again proved that the government is not working in accordance with the country's needs and concern for its status in the world, but in accordance with pressures by a group of fanatics such as Gush Emunim, which the government has no power to combat.

Committee May Reject Decision

TA231835 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Most of the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee will not support the Cabinet decision on Hebron if coalition discipline is not imposed. This was reported by our correspondent Razi Barqay on the basis of talks with several committee members.

It emerged that the eight Alinament members and the two Shay members will vote against it. The two members of the Democratic Movement, which is appealing the decision, will vote against the Cabinet decision, in accordance with the conclusions of the Democrats' Secretariat.

The Likud has nine members in the committees, but several of them, especially the Liberals and the La'am faction, have expressed opposition to any settlement activity in Hebron. Zalman Shoval told our correspondent that he would not vote in favor. The three NRP members will decide on their position after the faction's meeting tomorrow.

Our correspondent says that the coalition heads are now trying to find a way out. Among other things, the possibility has been proposed of replacing anybody in the committee who expressed reservations. However, this procedure involves a prior announcement from the Knesset podium. No date has yet been set for hearing the appeal in the foreign affairs and security committee.

Municipality Will Resign

TA2321113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Hebron Municipality decided this evening to resign if the Government of Israel implements its decision to establish a boarding school yeshiva and a field school in the city. This is reported by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari.

The Hebron Municipality called on residents of the city to come to the municipality building tomorrow to hear a report on the situation. All the institutions in Hebron will stage a 1-day protest strike the day after tomorrow. In a telegram sent to the defense minister, the Hebron Municipality says that today's Cabinet decision is the peak of persecution activities in the West Bank, and it demands that the decision be cancelled.

The mayor of Hebron said: The city is sad because this is the first Muslim city Israel is trying to Judaize.

Begin Urged Decision

TA240522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] It was the prime minister who urged the adoption of a decision on Hebron in order to tell the Washington administration prior to his departure there that the actions to entrench the Israeli presence in the territories will continue despite the U.S. position. In the future the government will also take advantage of its position regarding the right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el despite administration reactions. This has been learned by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Mr Begin clarified this position yesterday to Ambassador Sol Linowitz. He stressed that no Arab resident will be turned out during the activities in the territories.

Liberals To Meet

TA240857 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Liberal Center, Arye Dulzin, has decided to convene the center to discuss the Cabinet decision about Hebron. The center will apparently convene on Thursday. The meeting will be at the request of the heads of the Liberals' second generation [dor hemshekh] who want to prevent the imposition of coalition discipline on the party's representatives in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. In a conversation with our correspondent Gid'on Rotem, Arye Dulzin said that the decision about Hebron was terrible and should be cancelled.

Landau Upholds Government

TA241006 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Minister Hayim Landau says that there must be an improvement in the government's functioning, which is harming itself, mainly through the leaks occurring within it. In a conversation with our correspondent, Gadi Sukenik, he said that a minister who cannot accept government decisions and feels that he cannot maintain them, should draw the conclusions. However, the government will continue to exist as long as it has a majority in the Knesset.

Referring particularly to yesterday's Cabinet decision, Minister Landau said that any time was suitable for settlement in Hebron and the whole of Judaea and Samaria. From the political aspect, we must explain that a surrender to pressures would only weaken us and our position.

Gaza Municipality Condemnation

TA241022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Gaza Municipality has condemned the Cabinet decision about Hebron and called upon it to retract it. The Gaza Municipality Council met today for an urgent meeting to discuss this issue.

Debate Postponement

TA241132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Likud faction will only discuss the Cabinet decision about Hebron after the Passover break. At this morning's faction leadership meeting, Shilansky demanded that a decision be made at once that the Likud representatives in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee should support the Cabinet decision, but nobody supported his position. Hayim Corfu and the leadership chairman, Avraham Sharir, said that this was not the time to discuss that issue.

Call for Debate

TA241133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Chairman Moshe Arens said that he has not yet received any request to convene the committee to discuss Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin's appeal against the Cabinet decision about Hebron. Following his announcement, the coordinator of the Alinement faction in the committee, Me'ir Talmi, is demanding that the committee be convened urgently and that the meeting should not be postponed until after Passover. He said that technical arguments should not be used to postpone a debate on a decision which many people think is damaging to national interests.

Further Report on Decision

TA231602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The prime minister refused to respond to the proposal of Ministers Hammer, Hurvitz and Nisim to postpone the discussion on the settlement of the houses in Hebron until Mr Begin's return from his talks in the United States. Mr Begin said one has to decide and the issue bears no more delay.

Our political correspondent Shimon Schiffer notes that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who voted in favor of the decision, refrained from making a single remark on this issue during the Cabinet meeting.

Minister Hammer, who supported the decision, talked about the timing and said he would prefer if the Cabinet decided on strengthening Qiryat Arba', and not adopted a decision on the houses in Hebron. However, since the subject had been put to a vote, he decided to vote in favor.

Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera, who abstained, believed the plan, as it was presented in the Cabinet, was not good, and there is no need for another yeshivah in Hebron. He also said that the reasons of those opposing the proposal on political grounds are good reasons.

Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, who opposed the motion, said that the way in which the plan had been presented reveals one half of what it conceals. Simha Ehrlich said he was concerned about the manner in which the issue was presented in the Cabinet, something that will oblige him to seriously consider whether to continue sitting at the Cabinet table.

Minister Shmuel Tamir said after the meeting that the decision will weaken the Cabinet and will not enhance the security. It will also contribute to the isolation of Israel in the international arena and to the isolation of the Cabinet among the people. Minister Shmuel Tamir also pointed out the legal difficulties and other embroilments likely to be created as a result of the Cabinet decision.

According to the Cabinet decision, the yeshiva and the field school are to be built in two construction areas. One area is in the vicinity of the Avraham Avinu Synagogue in the center of Hebron. According to the detailed plan that has been submitted by Minister David Levi at the Cabinet session, all buildings there will be demolished. The Housing Ministry will, in the near future, begin building a yeshivah for 80 students and lodgings for staff families. The second building will be at Bet Hadassah, where a field school and quarters for students and the staff will be built.

Our political correspondent was told that the Housing Ministry is ready to begin construction in Hebron at once, but it will wait for a decision of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. The nucleus that intends to settle in Hebron told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that they are ready to go there as early as tomorrow morning. Rabbi Moshe Loewinger said that the decision to populate the houses in Hebron is an important resolution in the history of settlements in Israel.

During the Cabinet meeting, the prime minister also briefed the Cabinet members on the message of the Egyptian President. It was decided that the prime minister, the foreign minister and Dr Burg would formulate the answer. They will emphasize the Israeli interpretation of the 26 May date, which is not a final date for the conclusion of the autonomy negotiations but a target to be sought.

EVENTS IN OPPOSITION'S CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT REPORTED

Democrats Defer Withdrawal Decision

TA230625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Democratic Movement leaders have decided to postpone their debate about whether the party should leave the government.

The discussion will be held at the end of April, after Prime Minister Begin returns from Washington. This was decided last night in a meeting involving Deputy Prime Minister Yadin, Justice Minister Tamir and the leaders of the party faction that wants to leave the Cabinet. The subject was to come up in today's meeting of the Democratic Party Secretariat.

Shay Submits No Confidence Motion

TA240625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Today the Knesset will again discuss a no confidence motion. The motion is being submitted by the Shay faction on the grounds that the government is not functioning. Last week a similar motion, submitted by the Tehiya movement, was rejected.

Ministers May Resign

TA241043 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dani Bloch]

[Excerpt] Government circles are speculating that Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Deputy Prime Ministers Simha Ehrlich and Yiga'el Yadin will consider resigning from the government if the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee approves the decision about populating the Jewish houses in Hebron. Ehrlich and Yadin spoke sharply in the Cabinet against the decision. Weizman refrained from speaking at the Cabinet session, but it is known that he has recently made several statements about the possibility of [his] resignation.

The Cabinet decision, the practical significance of which is the Jewish populating of Hebron, was passed by a minority of ministers. Of 18 Cabinet members who were present at the session, only 8 supported the proposal (Begin, Shamir, Levi, Landau, Hurvitz, Shostak, Sharon and Hammer), 6 voted against (Weizman, Ehrlich, Pat, Yadin, Tamir and Katz), 3 abstained (Nisim, Moda'i and Abu-Hatzera) and 1--Dr Burg--left the session before its conclusion in order to receive Ambassador Linowitz, but he could have registered his vote and opted not to do so. Two of the ministers who supported the decision--Hammer and Hurvitz--were also not happy about it. Zvulun Hammer commented he put the strengthening of Qiryat Arba' higher on his scale of priorities, while Yiga'el Hurvitz thought that the timing, on the eve of Begin's trip for talks with Carter, was not good. Hurvitz, with the support of Hammer and Nisim, proposed postponing the decision until after Begin's return from Washington. The three ministers advised Begin to act in this way, but the prime minister refused and did not put their proposal to the vote.

Several of the ministers attempted to detract from the importance of the decision, claiming that it was only intended for the prime minister's demonstrative needs. This is illustrated by the fact that Begin, even before the session began, had agreed, in a talk with Professor Yadin, that an appeal would be submitted to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and then implementation would be frozen until the committee's decision. This also means an agreement to accept any decision made by the committee. It will be noted that, from the legislative aspect, the Cabinet does not have to accept the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee's decision. It is doubtful whether the agreement about the right to appeal on the matter of settlements, which was signed by the entire Democratic Movement for Change, also applies to the Democratic Movement, and whether the settlement issue also includes a decision of this sort regarding Hebron. Despite all this, Begin agreed both to the submission of the appeal and to the freeze in the implementation of the decision.

The ministers who opposed the Cabinet decision think that its comprehensive phrasing in fact permits the unrestricted populating of Jews in the Hebron Jewish quarter. In their estimation, there was a deception in the formulation about the yeshiva and the boarding school, the field school and its dwellings, this being in order to cause several ministers to abstain. Had a direct proposal regarding populating the houses been submitted, a majority in the Cabinet would have voted against it.

JUDAEA, SAMARIA COUNCIL HEADS DEMAND CHANGE OF LEGAL STATUS

TA211431 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The heads of the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza regional councils are continuing their hunger strike for the third consecutive day. They demand a change in the legal status of Judaea and Samaria. The six strikers have moved from the plaza near the Knesset building to the Jerusalem Independence Park.

ATTEMPT TO SET UP SETTLEMENT IN SINAI REPORTED; IDF REACTS

Permanent Housing Installed

TA230604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Six permanent housing units are now being set up in the settlement of 'Atzmona near Al-'Arish. This informal Gush Emunim settlement consists of about 50 residents including 10 married couples.

Further Report

TA231923 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1645 GMT 23 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Northern Sinai, 23 Mar--Members of Gush Emunim, with the aid of settlers from 'Atzmona, who settled a year ago without permission in the Haruvit region about 15 km east of Al-'Arish, began to erect permanent buildings on Sunday morning on the spot they intend for the establishment of an additional settlement without government approval.

Last week it was reported that the members of the nucleus, who are organized by ETZEL [acronym for 'we need to fight'--anahnu tzrikhij lehilahem] had succeeded in bringing sheds, building materials, parts of prefabricated buildings and tools to the location. They were due to begin building last week, to mark the first anniversary of the establishment of 'Atzmona, but because of the intervention of military government personnel and sandstorms in this region of northern Sinai, they gave up the idea.

ITIM correspondent David Eppel reported that the 50 people at the site are erecting six housing units, including some permanent buildings. The military government did not interfere with the settlers, because of the substantive difference between the situation in Judaea and Samaria and that in Sinai. The reference is to a desert area near the coast, almost unpopulated, unowned. The main point is that this is a region that is due to be returned to Egypt within 2 years, in accordance with the Camp David agreements.

IDF Moves Against Settlement

TA240812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Less than an hour ago an IDF force arrived at the place where the Gush Emunim members established the Hatzron work camp north of 'Atzmona settlement in the Yamit Strip.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh says that the IDF learned about the settlement last night from the Qol Yisra'el newscasts. An IDF patrol force went to search for the settlement site and, after it had discovered it, blockades were set up there. The IDF personnel are now holding negotiations with the people there in the aim of persuading them to leave the place. The nucleus' representatives told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that they did not intend to resist forcefully, but if they are evacuated, they will return and take over the place because it is their aim to remain in the Yamit Strip as long as it is under Israeli rule.

Removal Completed

TA241013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] A few minutes ago an IDF force forcefully evacuated the settlers in the work camp Hatzron which had been established during the night near 'Atzmona settlement, near Al-'Arish. The 50 settlers were put in buses which will apparently go to the military government in Rafah. Our correspondent Moti Eden says that, for 2 hours, approximately 200 troops fought with the settlers. The five buildings there were dismantled and during the evacuation. The country's flag, that had been flown from the flagpole, was also torn. The members of the ETZEL and Ma'oz organizations told our correspondent that they would not give up and they have already begun preparations to establish a new settlement in the Yamit Strip.

JORDAN TO TRANSFER WEST BANK INSTITUTIONS TO E. JERUSALEM

TA240528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Jordan has decided to transfer the head offices of all its institutions in Judaea and Samaria to East Jerusalem. The decision was made a few days ago, following clarifications between the Jordanian prime minister, his education minister and ministry officials responsible for Judaea and Samaria--a clarification of high school student demonstrations in the West Bank towns. During the talks, the education minister learned that the Central Education Committee for Judaea and Samaria is located in Nabulus. He ordered its transfer to East Jerusalem to stress the Arabness of the city.

COMMUNIST PARTY FAILS IN ARAB SECTOR

TA201445 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Mar 80 p 2 TA

[By Yitzhaq Ben-Horin]

[Text] A Rakah activist fainted in the Nazareth Workers' Council building and a doctor rushed to treat him when the results of the elections for the Building Workers' Histadrut were learned. Rakah was decisively defeated in these elections in Nazareth. Rakah's status in Nazareth and the villages in its vicinity has been undermined lately. This has been proved in several tests of power which indicate that the Alinement is gaining supporters in the Arab sector. The results of the elections to this histadrut dealt another blow to Rakah's prestige. Only 150 building workers from Nazareth and its environs voted for this party--760 cast their vote in favor of the alinement.

The ratio of support for the Alinement in Nazareth has reached 85 percent (60 percent in the previous elections) while Rakah, which received 32 percent in the previous elections, lost 50 percent of its electorate this time. Rakah was defeated in villages that have been its strongholds in the past such as Kafr Kanna, Yafa and Er Reina.

AFGHANISTAN

KARMAL DELIVERS NEW YEAR ADDRESS

LD202325 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1745 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Address to the nation by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, on the occasion of the New Year--recorded, in Dari]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful: Dear compatriots in town and village, sisters and brothers, comrades and friends.

I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on the festival of the New Year, the traditional festival of the New Year's Day, the Farmers Day, the festival of sowing and planing, the day to remember the 4,000 years of history of our country, the festival of the red flowers of Mazar-E Sharif and of 'Ali's picnic, the festival of hopes and the strength of life and light over disappointment and darkness.

As a result of the antihuman policy of Amin, certain groups of our people who are in an obvious way aligned with the revolution and have roots in it have been tricked by the enemies of the revolution, and have found themselves unawares in the ranks of their enemies and of the enemies of the revolution.

Oppressed countrymen, your revolutionary government will do all that is possible to speedily uncover the border plot between counterrevolutionary elements and our pure, disinterested and simple-hearted compatriots who have been deceived unawares, and to bring it to light. Those sincere and deceived compatriots of ours can take their rightful place among the soldiers of the revolution and the protectors of the country, and those trained groups, thieves, mercenaries, [word indistinct] plunderers and the like, those professional counterrevolutionaries can die in their isolation.

Compatriots, the legacy of the former regime consists of mountains of misery, disaster and storms. They have left us a torn country, an oppressed people, a weak and broken economy, insurmountable and complicated tribal difficulties, and national and religious problems. But we must face them with courage.

At present the graceful and creditable revolutionary Afghanistan is the champion of our present epoch in the world arena. The creation of the extensive National Fatherland Front, which will gather around it all the national democratic and progressive forces, is a powerful political arm for the creation of new Afghanistan. We are proceeding step by step in its creation and development and its rapid formation.

We follow the positive and active policy of nonalignment, and support detente and peaceful coexistence and general disarmament in a deep and active way. Together with peace-loving forces in a worldwide front we shall confront the warmongers, old and new colonialism, imperialism and Zionism, fascism and [word indistinct] racism and apartheid.

The traditional friendship between Afghanistan and the USSR, which emanates from the free, independent and progressive will of the people of Afghanistan has entered a new [word indistinct] and reached new heights. With the passing of time this itself will strengthen and will persist. No evil power in the world can damage it in the slightest.

The extensive, varied and unconditional economic, political, and military power of the USSR contributes to the prosperity and wellbeing of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and is the legal guarantee of the independence, security, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our dear country Afghanistan. The heroic people of Afghanistan are deeply aware of the importance and great advantages of this friendship and brotherhood and will not allow any force to stain this relationship.

The limited armed forces of the USSR which came to Afghanistan at the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], for defense against and to repel armed aggression and [word indistinct] of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our country, will most decisively remain here so long as there is the smallest sign of provocation, interference and external aggression against Afghanistan, and so long as these are not completely uprooted. An authoritative and timely decision to cease all interference, provocation and foreign aggression should be made.

World imperialism--headed by U.S. imperialism--the reactionary forces of the region and of the world, and the Chinese conspirators, who have realized their deceptive designs, (?faced with) the present struggle of the people of Afghanistan and the existence of the temporary limited armed contingents of the USSR, are engaging on the one hand in poisonous and false propaganda against our revolution and on the other hand are using Pakistan as a base for aggressive political activities against Afghanistan. They are training mercenaries and saboteurs, bandits and criminals and are sending them into Afghanistan to kill and plunder and to commit arson and sabotage.

It should be made clear to all that party, the government, and the armed forces of our country will not allow anyone to extend their blood-stained hands to sully or destroy the life, property, honor and grace of our dear country, Afghanistan, under any pretext.

Compatriots, for some time now the circles connected with British imperialism and their reactionary and hegemonic lackeys have wanted the history of their deceptions in the region and in our country to be forgotten. Through public deception and in a [word indistinct] manner they are talking of the so-called neutrality of Afghanistan, the permanent neutrality of Afghanistan, the guarantee of Afghanistan's neutrality, and are treacherously talking of peace-keeping forces, the forces of the energy demand, [as heard] and so on and so on.

You of the old school of thought--the well-informed and free people of Afghanistan know you well. Therefore, we announce once more, clearly and unequivocally, that all attempts being carried out behind the back of the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on issues that involve the internal affairs of Afghanistan constitute an obvious interference in the affairs of our country and encroach on the deserved rights of our people. Therefore, they have no credence and are bound to be defeated. The people of Afghanistan view such designs with hatred and animosity, and reject them outright.

Our enemies should know that the Saur Revolution is now an undeniable reality and that, without taking it into consideration, no final solution to any of our financial or national problems is possible.

Only the people and the government of Afghanistan have the right to take decisions about the problems related to their country--not the Americans, the English, the Chinese, the Israelis or any of the other enemies of Afghanistan who are wearing the false mask of public deception by pretending to defend the sacred religion of Islam and who, under the name of the so-called Islamic congress in Pakistan, which is opposed to the Muslim people of Afghanistan and hundreds of millions of other Muslim toilers of the world, and are conspiring against the sacred religion of Islam and millions of heroic Arab people in Palestine and trampling on the sacred shrines of Islam.

We will soon warn all the lackeys of reaction and imperialism in Pakistan that all their devilish designs against revolutionary and (?Muslim) Afghanistan will be faced with the serious reaction of all the heroic people of Afghanistan and the progressive world. The responsibility for all the resulting consequences will rest with the reactionary circles of Pakistan, U.S. and British imperialism, the Chinese conspirators and their lackeys in the region. We warn that no permanent or lasting political solution is possible or practicable without the elimination of the real reason for tension, which is armed foreign interference (?from) Pakistan in our country.

There is evidence at hand which shows that hirelings with money and arms and other war materials, and their American, British, Chinese, Pakistani, Israeli and Egyptian instructors, are being trained in these countries and are regularly sent into Afghanistan for armed aggression. These bands and mercenaries are presently being trained in 50 camps and centers in Pakistan and are then exported to Afghanistan. It is not hidden from anyone that imperialist power-seeking forces are trying to use Pakistan as a (?terrorist) base against its enemies. But, in the name of the definite and irrevocable will of the people of Afghanistan, we say that such plots and conspiracies, because of the valiant struggles of our people in close connection with the friends of our country's independence, led by the great Soviet nation, can no longer hope to succeed.

What is then the solution? The immediate and permanent solution to this (?unavoidably) disturbed condition is the immediate and definite ceasing of all sorts of foreign interference, completely, unconditionally, and especially, the total ceasing of the armed aggression in Afghanistan. An iron determination to achieve this should be outlined, and should be put into practice, so that no such interference can ever take place again on the sacred soil of Afghanistan. Only then, not even 1 day before that, can the necessary conditions be found for the limited contingents of the Soviet Union to leave Afghanistan.

[Words indistinct] the story of the armed forces of the Soviet Union leaving Afghanistan, in the first place depends on the behavior of those who are interfering in our internal affairs in various forms. The brave people of Afghanistan will not allow any power in the world to interfere in their internal affairs and faced with any interference and foreign aggression, will answer with an iron fist and will crush them.

Islamic and brotherly relations with the brother country of Iran make it necessary that both Islamic countries should live in an atmosphere of brotherliness and good will and should make the border between the two countries a border of peace, brotherhood and friendship.

With Pakistan, too. [Words indistinct] and the deep-rooted historical, cultural and Islamic relations that we have, we are hopeful of friendly relations. But the way that is being followed by the Pakistani authorities, that is the way of struggle and confrontation which they have chosen in dealing with fundamental issues in Afghanistan, points to an unfortunate outcome. The choice of this British way will only be a real danger to Pakistan, not to revolutionary, heroic and Muslim Afghanistan.

Living next to one another in an atmosphere full of understanding and peace would be the clear and straight-forward way. Such an approach represents the interests and hopes of the people of both countries and would guarantee peace and security in the region.

In our view, the influence of imperialism in Pakistan and its use of that country as the base for aggression against its neighbors, is not in the interests of the security of that country. The security of Pakistan is related to the extension of peaceful and friendly relations with Afghanistan and its other neighbors.

Our relations with that large country, India, have fortunately been constantly friendly. These relations, which have deep historic roots and which are dependent on the inspiration and trust of the people of both friendly countries will extend even further.

Compatriots, brothers, **sisters**, friends and comrades: We are living in an (?historic epoch). Only your unfailing power is turning the wheel toward [words indistinct] and peace and reconciliation, progress and justice, toward fraternity and equality.

The dark specter of fear has been forever eliminated from Afghanistan. Do not [word indistinct] be afraid. Work and be prepared for a secure, free and rich future. You compatriots who, because of the oppression and cruelty of the oppressor Amin (?refugees) or nomads, for the sake of the new year and the new life are fraternally invited to return with full trust and assurance with your Islamic and Afghan pride to your homes, your [word indistinct] families, children and tribes. All the grace and honor of life and your future as regards finance and moral and material well-being have been guaranteed. Return to your mosques and Shi'a places of worship and raise the cry "God is great" for peace and security, and friendship, with real Islamic and Afghan aspirations for your country and for your countrymen in a free manner, and engage in the peaceful work of sowing. Do not allow the enemies of freedom and independence of our country, who under the sacred words "God is great", annihilate your brothers, sisters, sons, fathers and mothers, make the people of Afghanistan poor and (?miserable).

As previously announced, the legal documents for the ownership of land will shortly be distributed so that the land ownership rights of peasants and landowners can be legally determined.

Oppressed compatriots: Wherever you are defend your revolution against enemies with unfailing courage, which is the guarantee of your future prosperity. Do not allow seditionists, murderers, hirelings and spies of the foreigners to act. Repel them and punish them. Strengthen further peace and security in your forefathers' Islamic, revolutionary and heroic Afghanistan so that your sons and future generations can live in their fatherland in prosperity, peace and success.

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Try to safeguard total democracy and the objectives of the revolution and to achieve unity among the people's masses. Do not be deceived by your enemies. Regard the actions and policies of your government as the standard of judgment. People who are (?aware) and who are heroically fighting and working [words indistinct] are successful despite all the difficulties.

Compatriots, brothers, sisters, friends and comrades: The unity of the party, the unity of national democratic forces, the unity of the people, our Islamic unity, the connection [word indistinct] of the fatherland, the relation of our party to all the toiling Muslim people of the country, are the guarantor of the success of the freedom-seeking Sawr Revolution and the DRA is the guarantor of the independent, free heroic and revolutionary Afghanistan.

Compatriots, noble and toiling people of the country congratulations on the traditional Farmers Day and the new year.

Karachi Reports Karmal's Address

BK210255 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Afghan President Babrak Karmal has said in a national broadcast that an urgent and lasting solution to the Afghan crisis is possible only when what he called intervention in his country ends immediately and unconditionally and a guarantee is given that such intervention will not be repeated. He said only after this is met will necessary arrangements be made for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He emphasized that the Soviet troops will stay in Afghanistan until what he called foreign intervention and provocations against Afghanistan are fully ended.

He mentioned [word indistinct] and decline in production in his broadcast and said the destructive war and wrong policies of the previous government have hurt trade and national economy.

KARMAL CHAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION 22 MAR

LD232204 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Council of Ministers met last night at the Revolutionary Council headquarters in Arg under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA.

The Council of Ministers approved a reduction of 50 puls per kilowatt of electricity for individual consumers in Balkh Province on the proposal of the Ministry of Water and Power and instructed that this resolution be implemented as of 21 March 1980. A 25 percent rise in oil products transport fares, which was proposed by the Ministry of Transport, was approved for implementation as of 21 March 1980.

On the proposal of the Ministry of Justice, the signing of the Charter of the UN Industrial Development organization was confirmed and a decision was made to inform the relevant UN officials.

At the request of the Ministry of Finance, a decision was made concerning the matters related to contracts for goods purchases and the organization of (?redistribution). On the basis of this decision, private firms and enterprises may sign contracts for the purchase of goods in accordance with the conditions of commercial loans, economic effectiveness and the aims of the government economic development policies.

Private firms and enterprises must obtain the advance agreement on the ministries of planning and finance and the Bank of Afghanistan, and the approval of the Council of Ministers and must possess the required sums of money as security for the payment of debts.

In accordance with a separate proposal by the Ministry of Information and Culture, a decision was made that the Behaqi Institute for publishing and importing books will continue as a profitmaking enterprise. It was also decided that the institute of Afghan Nandari [Kabul theater] should continue to operate as a nonprofit organization in 1980 in accordance with its charter within the framework of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

On the proposal of the Ministry of Public Health, the directorate of the antimalaria campaign was exempted from the subtraction or transfer of the percentage depreciation of its fixed assets based on a separate account. [sentence as heard]

In accordance with the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce, the outstanding debts of the foodstuffs procurement department for port services for wheat imports through Shir Khan Bandar, (Hayratan), and Towraghandi ports, which were accumulated in past years, have been cancelled, and expenditures for port services for wheat imports have been authorized at 60 afghanis per ton instead of 200 afghanis, payable by the foodstuffs procurement department. In addition, the customs duties incurred on the import of equipment required by the port enterprises of the three ports have been cancelled.

COMMERCE MINISTER: WESTERN INTERESTS WILL NOT BE NATIONALIZED

London REUTER in English 1559 GMT 23 Mar 80 WA

[Text] New Delhi, March 23, REUTER--Afghanistan's Marxist rulers have assured Western companies that their interests in the country will not be nationalized, the PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) reported from Kabul today. The pledges against nationalization were given to West German businessmen operating in Afghanistan, PTI said. The agency quoted Afghan Commerce Minister Mohammad Khan Jalal as saying in an interview that the Kabul government's trade relations with other countries would not be affected by the Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

According to the Kabul NEW TIMES, a member of President Babrak Karmal's government was in France discussing the construction of a sugar refinery in northern Afghanistan.

Mr Jalal told PTI that there had been no decline in trade with the West since pro-Soviet rule was established in Kabul in 1978, though the Soviet Union was the country's main trading partner. He said the government also had told the private trade sector in Afghanistan that it would be left alone. The minister said the country's internal and external trade had been only slightly affected by fighting between Moslem rebels and Soviet forces supporting President Karmal.

Mr Karmal took power from the previous Marxist government in a Moscow-backed coup last December 27.

"The state of commerce is not very much disturbed," Mr Jalal told PTI, "but to some extent it is disturbed. This is a fact and we cannot hide that."

Military escorts were being provided for imports from Pakistan because of rebel activity along the Konduz and Jalalabad roads in eastern Afghanistan, he said.

The minister denied that Pakistan was creating difficulties for Afghan imports through Karachi, or hampering transit facilities. Inadequate port and rail facilities together with insurgent harassment here responsible for any difficulties, he said.

SOVIET FORCES PREPARED FOR LONG STAY

OW211135 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 21 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Kabul, March 21 KYODO--Babrak Karmal's Soviet-backed regime was set up nearly three months ago but it has now become clear that the Soviet forces in Afghanistan will not pull out until Moscow is certain that the central Asian country has a "stable pro-Soviet government." According to diplomatic sources here, the "stable regime" envisioned by the Soviets must (1) be pro-Soviet; (2) guarantee freedom of religion; (3) have wide support among Afghans; and (4) pursue a neutral policy within and without as well as a good neighborly foreign policy.

The Soviet Union apparently plans to build up the Karmal regime to suit its purposes and try to subdue armed resistance and cut off the guerrillas from the people by next month or May when the thaw sets in.

The February 22 general strike here amply demonstrated how strong the Muslim people can be. The diplomatic sources conservatively estimate that 300 persons were killed and more than 2,000 arrested in the riots and general strike, the first of its kind in Afghan history.

It was reported that a village northwest of this city was completely wiped out by the Afghan Army. It is certain that the number of dead and arrests far exceeded the estimates of the sources.

The large contingents of Soviet troops camping in the outskirts of Kabul are apparently prepared to stay for a long time. They have cut off Kabul from the surrounding areas while conducting a thorough search for weapons in the city, making organized resistance in the city an impossibility.

The next month or two, when the snow starts melting, will be a crucial time for both the Afghan Army and guerrillas. The diplomatic sources, however, see the armed resistance gradually weakening.

It is possible that the Afghans will become resigned to the situation if prices stabilize and the economy in general improves with the Soviet help. There is an indication that the Soviet Union will replace Karmal with a leader more to the liking of the people if the guerrillas keep up their strong resistance. In any event, it is believed certain here that the Soviet forces are prepared for a long stay.

10,000 Additional Troops Arrive

BK221506 Hong Kong AFP in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 22 March (AFP)--A contingent of 10,000 Soviet troops reportedly entered Afghanistan by road between March 17 and 20, an informed Pakistani source said today.

The Soviet reinforcements reportedly crossed the border at Shir Khan, due north of Kabul on the Soviet border, with the first stop for the majority of the soldiers being the vast Soviet military camp in Parvan Province, about 50 km (30 miles) north of Kabul, the reports said. Other troops have reportedly been moving westward to occupy zones which until the present had been the terrain of Moslem rebels near the towns of Maimana and Herat, sources here said.

Observers said these recent troop movements appeared to be a large-scale maneuver to surround Afghanistan's two major north-south highways.

Meanwhile, eyewitness accounts over the past few days have indicated that the Soviet intervention forces based in camps located between Kabul and the Pakistani border were starting to swarm out in all directions.

The fact that the Afghan Army has begun fighting the Moslem resistance again and the Soviet troop units have been constantly moving overland by road could indicate coming changes in the military situation, observers said.

But snow is still heavy enough to act as an obstacle to a general offensive in the mountains, with temperatures as low as 5 degrees fahrenheit (minus 15 centigrade) recorded in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia Province less than a week ago.

DELEGATE ADDRESSES ESCAP CONFERENCE ON AID HALT

For the AFP account of the Afghan delegate's address on March 21 to the UN ESCAP Conference in Bangkok see the International Affairs section of the 21 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

BANGLADESH

PRISONERS IN DACCA JAIL JOIN HUNGER STRIKE

BK210953 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Dacca, 21 March (AFP)--Over 2,500 prisoners in Dacca's central jail yesterday began a 48-hour token hunger strike in support of 381 political convicts and detainees of the jail who went on hunger strike last Tuesday [18 March], it was reported today. Their demands included provision to allow prisoners convicted by special martial law tribunals to appeal against their sentences before civil courts.

Reports said that except for some 300 women and sick prisoners, the remaining inmates of the 3,000 capacity jail did not take any food yesterday despite repeated requests by inspector general of prison, Brigadier Aboul Huq, and other jail officials.

Among hunger strikers who joined yesterday were two convicted leaders of the National Socialist Party (JSD), Retired Major Ziauddin and Retired Captain Obaid, and three Awami League leaders including former Red Cross chief, Gazi Golam Mustafa.

Out of 381 original hunger strikers, the condition of about 100 had deteriorated yesterday. One of them was taken to a medical college hospital yesterday for emergency treatment. Additional physicians had been engaged in jail to examine the health of the strikers. The JSD yesterday urged the government to accept the demands of the striking prisoners in jail.

Former President Released

BK240904 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has ordered the release of Khondokar Mushtaque Ahmed [former Bangladesh president] of the Democratic League and four others belonging to JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] and the Awami League. They are Maj. or retired, M.A. Jalil and Maj or, retired, Ziauddin of JSD; Gazi Gholam Mustafa and Abdul Mannan of Awami League. The release order was issued in Dacca this morning on the eve of the Independence Day.

INDIA

SITUATION IN NORTHEASTERN REGION DISCUSSED

Mizo Front Kill Three

BK211323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Mizoram, four persons were killed and three others seriously injured when an armed gang of the outlawed Mizo National Front attacked a camp of the border roads organization near (Tindummal), about 100 km southeast of Aijal last night.

Curfew Clamped on Mizoram

BK211648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Mizoram, an indefinite curfew has been clamped along the 150-kilometer (Aijal-Linglong) Road and the 40-kilometer-long (Shurchit-Tiluol) Road following fresh incidents of violence by the outlawed Mizo National Front.

Four persons were killed and three seriously injured when a gang of outlaws attacked the camp of a border road organization near (Tinzol) and set fire to it. In another incident a non-Mizo teacher was shot dead at (Chiaplant).

Upper House Discusses Situation

BK211634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpts] The situation in the northeastern region of the country, due to the reported secessionist movement there, came up for discussion in the Rajya Sabha today through a calling-attention motion raised by G.C. Shattacharya, Congress-I, and others. Intervening in the discussion, Home Minister Zail Singh shared the concern of members over the situation and assured them that the government will not allow it to deteriorate.

Replying to K.C. Pant, independent, the home minister said that arms recovered from insurgents bore American and Chinese markings.

When a member from Mizoram (Lalsoya) said that the Mizo rebel leader Laldenga is keen to have a meeting with the prime minister, Zail Singh replied that such a meeting could be arranged.

Earlier, Makwana [state minister for home affairs said the problem in the region is complex and the government is keeping a close watch. The government is fully aware of the sentiments of the people and their desire to preserve and develop their own way of life and culture. At the same time, law and order will have to be maintained and secessionist elements curbed with a firm hand.

Makwana informed the house that the prime minister has recently approved the setting up of a committee of ministers for economic development of the northeastern region. Setting up of an official-level committee to back up the ministers' committee has also been approved.

During the discussion, several members stressed the need for accelerating development activities in the region. They were of the view that this will go a long way to tackle the problems of the region.

Home Minister Explains Situation

BK211328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government has ruled out any dialog at present with insurgent leaders in the northeastern region. This was made clear by minister of state for home affairs, Makwana, while replying to a calling-attention motion raised by S.C. Shattacharya, Congress-I, and other on the situation in the region created by the reported secessionist movement there. The minister said the insurgents, particularly the Mizo rebel leader Laldenga, have not honored the agreement entered with the government.

Intervening in the discussion, Home Minister Zail Singh shared the concern of members over the situation and assured them that the government will not allow it to deteriorate. He agreed with members that some foreign powers want to create disturbances in the region. He, however, made it clear while replying to Jagjit Singh Anand, Communist Party of India, that the Soviet Union is not among those foreign powers. He confirmed that U.S. Ambassador Goheen had visited the region.

Kalraj Mishra, Janata, Rabi Ray, Lik Dal, had also alleged that foreign missionaries and CIA agents are in collusion to foment trouble in the area. To that, the minister of state for home affairs replied that foreign agencies are working everywhere, not only in India alone.

Home Minister Accuses CIA

WA211345 London REUTERS in English 1309 GMT 23 Mar 80 WA

[Text] New Delhi, March 21, REUTERS--Home Minister Zail Singh intimated today that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was behind the unrest in India's troubled northeast region bordering China and Burma, the PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) reported. Mr Singh told Parliament that U.S. Ambassador Robert Goheen "along with some CIA agents" toured the northeast last year. "It is now clear which are the forces behind the agitation," he said. He told a Communist Party questioner that the Soviet Union was not among these forces.

Mr Singh was interviewed in discussions about the northeastern region, where 81 people have been killed and 15,000 made homeless in Assam State since last September. The Assamese have been agitating against people coming into the state from other areas. There have also been attacks on officials and security forces by secessionist rebels in Mozoram and Manipur territories.

External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told Parliament earlier that China had assured India that it was not training secessionist Naga guerrillas from the northeast. China had given an assurance in February of last year that such support that might have been given earlier could be considered a thing of the past, he said. There have been consistent Indian newspaper reports that Naga rebels are armed with Chinese weapons and trained in China.

In the Lok Sabha (lower house) Prime Minister Indira Gandhi appealed for calm in West Bengal State and northeastern Assam over the treatment of Bengal immigrants by Assamese agitators. Supporters of her Congress-I Party in West Bengal have threatened to blockade Assam on Monday by stopping trucks, freight trains and planes leaving West Bengal with goods for the state.

Mr Singh said arms recovered from insurgents in the northeast had American markings and some were of Chinese origin. The government was alert to the situation, he added.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said the full remarks of Mr Singh were being sought by the embassy before a statement was issued. American Ambassador Goheen, asked about alleged CIA activities in Assam at a press conference in Calcutta last week, said that during his visit to Assam last year he had not discussed politics and would have been glad to have been accompanied by an Indian intelligence officer.

Home Ministry Denies CIA Role

BK221000 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A spokesman of the Home Ministry said in New Delhi there is no truth in the report appearing in a section of the press today that Home Minister Zail Singh said in Parliament that the CIA had a hand in the northeastern region problem. No such reference to the CIA was made by the minister in the Rajya Sabha during the discussion, the spokesman added.

Further Report on CIA Role

BK231101 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 23 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 23 March (AFP)--The five-month-old agitation in India's sensitive north-eastern Province of Assam demanding immediate eviction and deportation of about five million non-Assamese, mostly migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh and Nepal, has taken a new turn with Interior Minister Mr. Zail Singh's statement that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was behind it.

This is the first time that Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's government came out with an official statement in the Parliament supporting the widely held view that the CIA was actively involved in creating troubles in the northeastern provinces.

Alarmed by the impact Mr. Singh's statement had in the press and the strong protest the U.S. Embassy here lodged with the Indian Government, the Foreign Office came out with a blunt denial claiming that Mr. Singh was misquoted by newsmen. What is surprising is how can 50 newsmen go wrong.

But officials in the Interior Ministry admit during off-the-record talks that the secessionists movement in the seven northeastern states of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya (area 266,000 square kilometres) have unnerved the union government so much, that if a solution is not found soon, the situation may well go out of control.

"The entire northeastern India is linked with the country by a narrow corridor (popularly called the chicken neck) and if the agitation becomes violent and viable, we are in for serious trouble," a senior official of the Interior Ministry admitted.

Officials refused to divulge details on the alleged CIA activities, but quoted reports received from the Indian counterintelligence sources and said, "we obviously do not expect American diplomats to be in Assam, but we have definite information that the CIA is pumping money through Christian missionaries who are settled there."

CIA's alleged involvement came to the notice of the government in January, when a report sent by the Indian counterintelligence spoke of massive financial help the agitationists were getting. The reports did not specify the CIA by name, but said, "We are sure that the agitationists are getting financial help from foreign countries." Consequently the Indian Government intensified its counterintelligence operations and came to the conclusion that the CIA was involved.

"The issue is not only Assam; the demand for deporting all 'foreigners' is spreading in all the seven provinces and union territories.... This is what has made the situation alarming," a senior official in the Interior Ministry said.

Following is the rundown on the secessionist movement in the seven northeastern provinces and union territories

Assam: Agitation in Assam (area 79,000 sq kms; population 19.2 million) started when students demanded that the names of five million "foreigners" (migrants from Bangladesh and Nepal who entered Assam after 1951) should be deleted from the electoral rolls and subsequently they should be deported. It took a violent turn and about 80 persons were killed in mob fury and police retaliation. Mrs. Gandhi's personal effort (she held three meetings with the students) have not yielded any results. Mrs. Gandhi wants 1971 as cut-off-date to determine the nationality whereas the students are adamant on 1951-electoral roll.

Meghalaya: The tribals in Meghalaya (area 22,000 sq kms; population 1.3 million) want to "kick out the nontribals and for this purpose has sent up special committees" to "drive out the outsiders." The state witnessed violence last month against about 5,000 families, mostly Bengali speaking refugees from Bangladesh, have been evicted.

Nagaland: (area 17,000 sq kms and population 700,000) has been fighting a virtual war with Indian Government for secession from the Indian union. "We do not believe in compromise, we want an independent nation of our own," an underground Naga rebel leader in New Delhi was quoted. "We have our sympathy for Assam, but they are mistaken, they ought to fight, not sit and talk with Mrs. Gandhi," the rebel leader said.

Manipur: (area 22,000 sq kms and population 1.4 million) Imphal, the capital of Manipur, is currently the focal point of violence in northeast India. The most strident of the separatist movement is being led by the Meiteis--the tribals plainsmen who represent two-thirds of the total population. Their leader Mr. Bishessar Singh had led a group of people to China to "get trained." He has formed his own "peoples liberation army" and plans to start a "war" against all the nontribals.

Mizoram: (area 21,000 sq kms and population 440,000) Aizal, the capital town of Mizoram is still a disturbed town with a war-torn look. The "Mizo National Front," which is leading the movement for secession from the Indian union, shares the view with their neighbours in Nagaland. At least 200,000 non-Mizos have so far been evicted from this state.

Tripura: (area 10,000 sq kms, population two million). A section of 600,000 Tripura tribals, led by Mr. B.K. Ranhal, is now carrying on a crusade against the 1.2 million nontribals of Tripura, mostly Bengali settlers from erstwhile east Pakistan, who dominate the states political and economic life. Tripura is one of three Indian states where Marxists are in power.

Arunachal Pradesh: (area 84,000 sq kms, population 500,000) This union territory, directly ruled by the union government is relatively free from any organized movement. Stray cases of incidents against migrants, have, however, been reported.

Additional Report on Assam Issue

BK230937 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government proposes to institute an inquiry to identify and eliminate the disruptive elements which had infiltrated into the police and other government departments during Janata rule. This was stated by Home Minister Zail Singh while talking to newsmen in Chanigarh today. He alleged that disruptive elements, including the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS], had infiltrated into the police and other services during the last 3 years. He said some mischievous and politically motivated persons seem to have conspired to defame the government. He listed the lathi charge on the blind persons in New Delhi and the roughing up of lawyers in Madhya Pradesh as some of their doings in this direction.

The home minister emphasized the need for proper training of policemen to deal with such situations and said certain short-term and long-term measures are under the consideration of the government. These, he said, will be discussed at a meeting of chief secretaries and inspectors general of police of all states in New Delhi in the 1st week of next month.

About the Assam agitation, Zail Singh said he is optimistic about a solution being found to the problem. He said that the proposal of the government for taking 1971 as the base year for deciding the foreigners issue had not been rejected by the people of Assam. Even among the student leaders, not all have rejected it. The home minister said there is no proposal to postpone the assembly elections. He also said there is no proposal to remove the governors appointed during Janata rule. However, he said with the change in the government at the center, these governors should themselves quit or at least offer to do so. He pointed out that after the Janata Party came into power the then governors were either asked to resign or were removed.

INDIA TODAY EXPOSES ALLEGED KCIA PLOT

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[Text] New Delhi, 10 Mar (AFP)--Leading Indian news magazine has exposed an alleged South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) plot to sabotage India's efforts to form a regional alliance over the Afghanistan crisis.

The fortnightly magazine INDIA TODAY said in its latest issue "over the past few weeks forged documents, implicating certain neighbouring countries in the arming and training of (pro-Peking) Naga rebels, have been planted with various well placed individuals....The strategy was to create tension between India and its neighbours, especially China, Pakistan and Bangladesh", so that "it could have a significant impact on regional tension" and "frustrate India's effort to form a regional alliance to defuse the Afghanistan crisis."

INDIA TODAY published the documents and said that when forgery was established "the process of back-tracking on the origin of the documents proved relatively simple, though nonetheless startling."

"According to the person who passed along the documents to us, they were allegedly given to him by a senior diplomat of the South Korean Embassy here....The obvious inference is that the forgeries were the handiwork of the KCIA" and "it is possible that KCIA is being used by a third country", INDIA TODAY said.

The Naga rebels in the sensitive northeastern province of India have been fighting a virtual war with Indian authorities demanding secession from the Indian union. Alleged Chinese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi help to the Naga rebels had been the most important irritant factor between India and her neighbours.

"If we have published the documents, it would have started a virtual diplomatic war between India and her neighbours," Mr Chhotu Karadia, managing editor of INDIA TODAY said.

The first document which was planted on the magazine was a confidential letter written by the chief administrator of the Nagaland Province to the Indian Foreign Office informing the capture of "Chinese and Pakistani-made arms" from the Naga rebels. The items recovered included "rifles, time bombs, hand grenades, anti-tank bombs and high-powered transmitters."

The letter said "a check on the marking revealed that the rifles came from Pakistan and Bangladesh, while the time bomb and hand grenades from North Korea....The high-powered transmitters and the anti-tank bombs were from China."

The most interesting part of the letter, however, concerned the allegations that the rebel confessed that they were being trained by foreign nationals. "Our counterintelligence men have established the identities of 25 foreign nationals who were arrested. They include Chinese, 4 North Koreans, 12 Pakistanis and 4 Bangladeshis," the letter said.

The second document was in the form of minutes of a top-level meeting of the Indian Foreign Office chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. R.D. Sathe. Quoting the document INDIA TODAY said: "The fictitious meeting started with Mr. Sathe drawing attention that the government was faced with a very serious situation in Nagaland....Mr. Sathe further informed that various missions located in the Indian capital were financing the Naga rebels."

The Indian intelligence agency-research and analysis wing (RAW) has meanwhile started investigations and the person who passed on the documents to the magazine has been identified. "He is a senior bureaucrat working in the Commerce Ministry," a well-placed source in the RAW said, but refused to name him.

"The KCIA's attempt was to exploit the Indian sentiment on arming the Naga rebels by China, Pakistan and Bangladesh and may have had an adverse effect on our efforts to form a regional alliance to face the Afghan crisis," the source, who asked not to be named, said.